The Middlebury Campus

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SNOW BOWL, RIKERT SLASH PRICES FOR STUDENTS

By JAMES FINN
News Editor

Staff at the Middlebury Snow Bowl and Rikert Nordic Center just made skiing twice as affordable for students.

Administrators at both ski sites decided in late February to cut pass prices in half, according to an email sent to students on March 2. Under the new pricing plan, a season pass at the Snow Bowl now costs $97, down from $200, and season passes at Rikert go for $60 (previously $120). Prices for day passes were reduced as well, down to $20 from $50 at the Snow Bowl and $8.50 from $17 at Rikert. Per the terms of the Bowl's annual March sale, those who purchase season passes between now and the end of the month will be able to use them for next year's full ski season.

The reduced-price passes are available exclusively to Middlebury College students, a demographic staff hope to draw to the ski areas in greater numbers than have visited in recent years.

"If we have the same revenue with twice the amount of people on campus excited about what we're doing, that's a great thing," said Mike Hussey, director at Rikert and the Snow Bowl. "That's worth it for me to reduce the price to a more reasonable level."

The price cuts have been already

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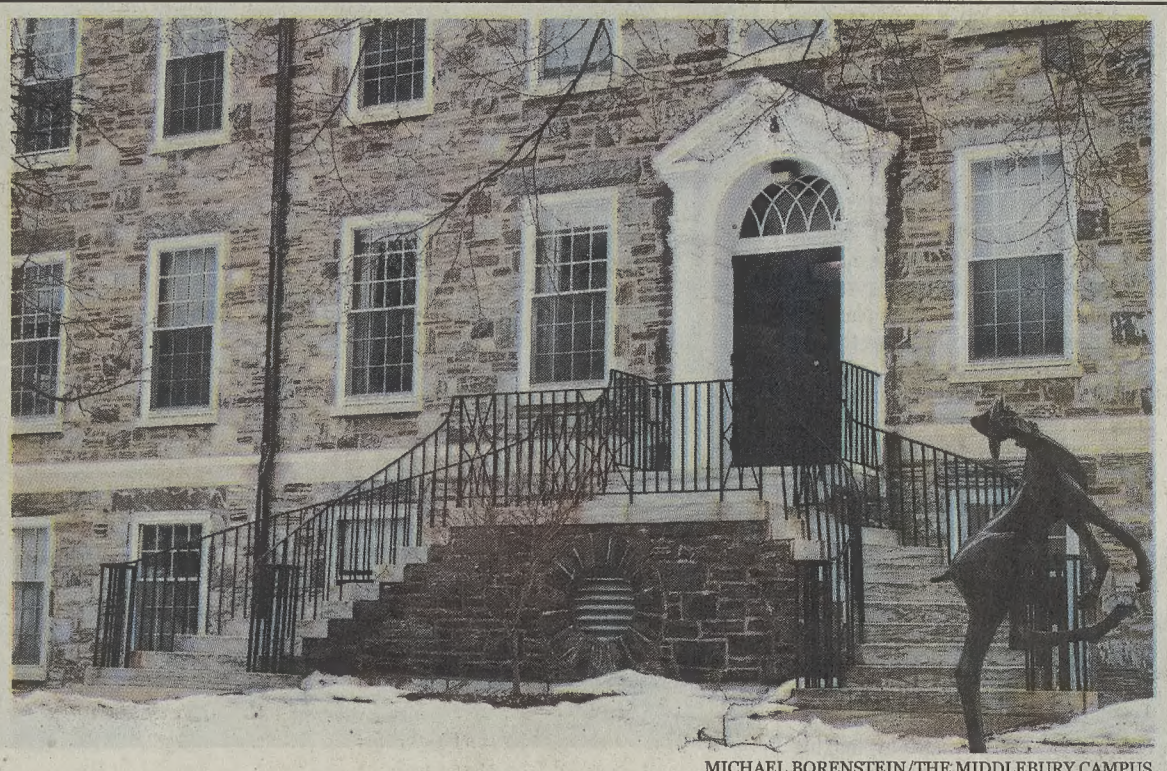

MICHAEL BORENSTEIN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Munroe Hall will be the first building renovated as part of the college's 10-year Academic Space Master Plan.

Munroe Hall to Undergo Long-Awaited Renovations

By GIGI HOGAN
Staff Writer

When Munroe Hall was built in 1947, accessibility, air conditioning and general safety standards were not a priority. All of these problems will be addressed in the building's yearlong renovation, set to begin in June.

Although Munroe has been around for over 70 years, the college has made few changes in that time. Consequently, the building hosts multiple components that do not meet ADA standards. Every entrance to Munroe opens to a set of stairs, doorways and bathrooms are too narrow to be wheelchair-accessible and elevators are nowhere to be found.

Michael Sheridan, chair of the Sociology/Anthropology Department, which is located in the building, believes the proposed renovations will go a long way toward making Middlebury a more inclusive community.

"I get very frustrated watching someone on crutches struggle up to the fourth floor for class," Sheridan said. "I once had a student in a wheelchair who could not even enter Munroe."

The proposal also addresses concerns about the safety and comfort of students. The antiquated building has no automatic sprinkler system for fire protection, no ventilation and a heating system that is variable and inaccurate. The doorways and roofing system are not insulated and the classrooms and faculty offices are poorly furnished.

"We are hitting every single component of the building," said Project Manager Tom McGinn.

The project received final approval from the Board of Trustees just last week. According to McGinn, the design has been in the works for about a year. The staff and faculty housed in Munroe, largely from the departments of Religion, Sociology/Anthropology and Political Science, have provided input throughout the process.

"We've tried to accommodate all of their requests, but of course there are larger college considerations as well. Within every group there is always difference of opinion. I think they'll be happy with it," McGinn said.

The proposed renovations include the same nine classrooms and 43 faculty offices it currently holds, along with the addition of an open common room on the second floor. All new single-user restrooms and brand new furnishings will create a more welcoming environment. Air conditioning, ventilation and new windows will add a level of energy efficiency the building previously lacked.

McGinn noted that Munroe's location in the middle of campus means pedestrian traffic will be interrupted for a short period of time during construction. The site will be fenced off and temporary walkways will be created to decrease the disruption as much as possible.

The staff and faculty will temporarily relocate to the brand new 75 Shannon Street building, located behind Wright Theater. This building, often referred to as a "swing-space," was built to accommodate the college's rapidly expanding computer science program, which will occupy the second floor. The Munroe residents will move into the first floor while their building is under renovation.

Faculty members have expressed concerns over the temporary cubicles that will serve as staff offices on the first floor of the interim academic space.

"I worry about holding private conversations with students in the temporary offices," said Matt Dickinson, professor of Political Science. "I suspect I will have to find another place to hold office hours for the coming academic year."

The college's announcement about the temporary building last summer garnered mixed reactions. One commenter on the news release applauded the college for updating some of its older buildings.

"Great to hear Warner and Munroe will finally move out of the late 1970s and into an ADA compliant world," they said.

Others criticized the building's metal exterior, which does not match the college's quintessential stone style.

"Please find a way to make the outside more attractive/similar to the traditional Midd buildings. It looks like a building you'd expect to see in a big city setting, not in the beautiful Champlain Valley," one reader commented.

McGinn conceded that the new

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COURTESY OF MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE ARCHIVES

Skiers wait in line at the Snow Bowl in 1960.

White Allies Asked to Support Eliminating White Supremacy in Curriculum

By NICOLE POLLACK
Staff Writer

The Hillcrest Orchard was filled to capacity for the "White Allies: It's Your Turn" meeting last Thursday evening, with students lining the windowsills and crowding onto the floor as organizers Treasure Brooks '21 and Wengel Kifle '20 spoke about the need to eliminate racial violence from the Middlebury curriculum.

"Repeat after me," Brooks told the crowd, "the academic institution is the greatest mobilizer of white supremacy." Attendees echoed her words. Later, asked how she came up with the phrase, she said, "It's just the truth."

Promoted as an opportunity for white students, particularly those who oppose campus inequality but rarely speak up outside the classroom, to learn about advocating for racial equity, "White Allies" offered white students a glimpse into the social and academic difficulties faced by students of color. Brooks, who is black, described Middlebury as a site of colonial indoctrination, and said that the first step toward being on the right side of history is to decolonize the curriculum by incorporating diverse viewpoints that are often neglected by academia.

"Decolonizing the curriculum, I think, is to intentionally teach different authors and teach from perspectives that are non-western and non-white," Brooks said. Most of the academic content used in Middlebury's courses was produced in colonial and white supremacist systems, she said, and the intentional addition of different perspectives to curricula makes the context more complete.

"It's not just adding in new voices," said Renee Wells, director of education for equity and inclusion. "It's adding in new voices that can name the ways in which our historical modes of thinking are oppressive."

The event was completely student-run, but Wells described herself as a sounding board for student concerns, including those recently put forth by Brooks and Kifle regarding campus climate and curriculum.

During the meeting, Brooks referred to Carr Hall, which houses the Anderson Freeman Center, as a space for students of color. One white student, seated on the

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TRUMP THREATENS TO DENY FUNDS FROM COLLEGES NOT UPHOLDING 'FREE SPEECH'

By SABINE POUX
Senior News Editor

Middlebury and other private universities could be targeted by an executive order that President Donald J. Trump proposed earlier this month, which would withhold federal funding from any institutions that do not uphold "free speech."

The proposal serves as a response to longstanding complaints on the right that students at liberal universities are vilifying and stifling conservative viewpoints. But university administrators and educators around the country fear the ramifications of an attempt by the president to regulate campus speech.

In his address on the last day of the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) a four-day gathering of prominent right-wing thinkers, politicians and students in National Harbor, Md., the president avoided specifics but announced that he would sign the order "very soon." The crowd responded with uproarious applause and chants of "USA! USA!"

Trump was joined onstage by Hayden Williams, a 26-year-old conservative activist who was punched last month while recruiting for a conservative organization and holding a pro-Trump sign at the University of California, Berkeley.

"There are so many conservative students around the country who are facing discrimination, harassment and worse if they dare to speak up on campus," Williams said. "If these socialist progressives had their way, they would put our Constitution through the paper shredder in a heartbeat."

Trump's announcement comes two years after the Charles Murray protests at Middlebury, which conservative critics lampooned as an example of suppression of free speech and right-wing views. That same year, students at Claremont McKenna College, a private liberal arts school in California, blocked the door of an auditorium during a conservative writer's speech. Students involved in both protests were disciplined in the aftermath.

Although Trump named neither college in his speech, both schools have figured into his administration's recent crusade against suppression of right-wing views on college campuses. In the last two years, congressional Republicans held multiple hearings on campus free speech, and in recent months the Justice Department has filed statements in support of students who have sued their universities for violating their speech rights. Last March, the White House held a panel called "Crisis on College Cam-

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Democracy in Action: Middlebury Town Meeting

HATTIE LAFAVOUR/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Last Monday's Town Meeting was the latest installment in a 200-year-long tradition. See Page 3 for our full coverage.

LOCAL

Burlington org addresses student food insecurity
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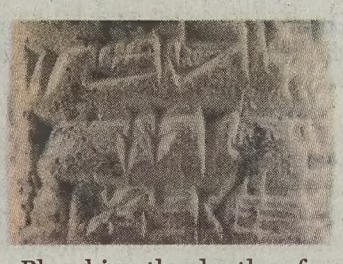
ARTS



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Men's track captures first national title
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Snow Bowl Cheapens Passes for Middlebury Students

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yielded positive results. Last year, Snow Bowl staff sold 40 season passes during its March sale, according to Hussey. They need to sell 90 March sale season passes this year for the price cut plan to be financially lucrative. As of March 11, they had already sold 70.

The decision to cut prices sprang from years of declining pass sales at the Bowl and a desire to reinvigorate student participation in the exclusively college-owned and operated ski area, one of only two of its kind in the northeastern U.S. alongside the Dartmouth Skiway. Season pass sales at the Bowl have plummeted steadily over the past decade-and-a-half, Hussey said. During the 2004-2005 ski season the Bowl sold 800 season passes; by the 2017-2018 year, that number had declined to 400.

JAMES FINN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Mike Hussey on the job at Rikert.

That drop in sales over that period coincided with pricing trends at Sugarbush Resort, according to Hussey. For the past few years a season pass at Sugarbush went for the same price — around $200 — as passes at the Bowl. It made sense, Hussey realized, that Middlebury College students were spending their money on passes at the larger ski area.

But pass prices shouldn't stand in the way of students skiing at their college's mountain, administrators agreed.

"Students at Middlebury shouldn't feel like they would get a better deal financially skiing somewhere else than at their own mountain," said Ski Patrol director Sean Gryzb. "We want to populate the bowl with as many students as we can, and that's worth the price reduction."

Rather than setting the new Snow Bowl pass price at an even $100, Hussey, Gryzb and other administrators settled on $97 as a way to recognize next year's winter carnival, which will be the 97th of its kind hosted at the Snow Bowl.

"That'll tie in a little pride, hopefully," Hussey said. "Winter carnival is one of these incredibly unique events that a lot of ski areas don't have the way Middlebury does, and we want to recognize it."

Philip Klinck '20, a member of the Bowl's student ski patrol, conducted a survey along with fellow ski patroller Sam Scatchard '20 that asked students about barriers keeping them from skiing at the Bowl. The survey asked students to name their ideal Snow Bowl pass price, and the median response fell around $100, Klinck said. He and Scatchard presented the results of their survey to Hussey and Gryzb several days after the new price plan had been decided upon, confirming the upside of the new $97 price.

"Skiing is a sport with incredibly high barriers to entry," Klinck wrote in an email to The Campus. "Ticket pricing makes up only a small portion of what keeps the majority of Middlebury students off the slopes, but it this change is definitely a step in the right direction and is in line with Middlebury's larger commitment to making all aspects of campus accessible to all students."

Other initiatives to make the Bowl more affordable include a scholarship program the Bowl launched this January to help subsidize costs for students learning to ski.

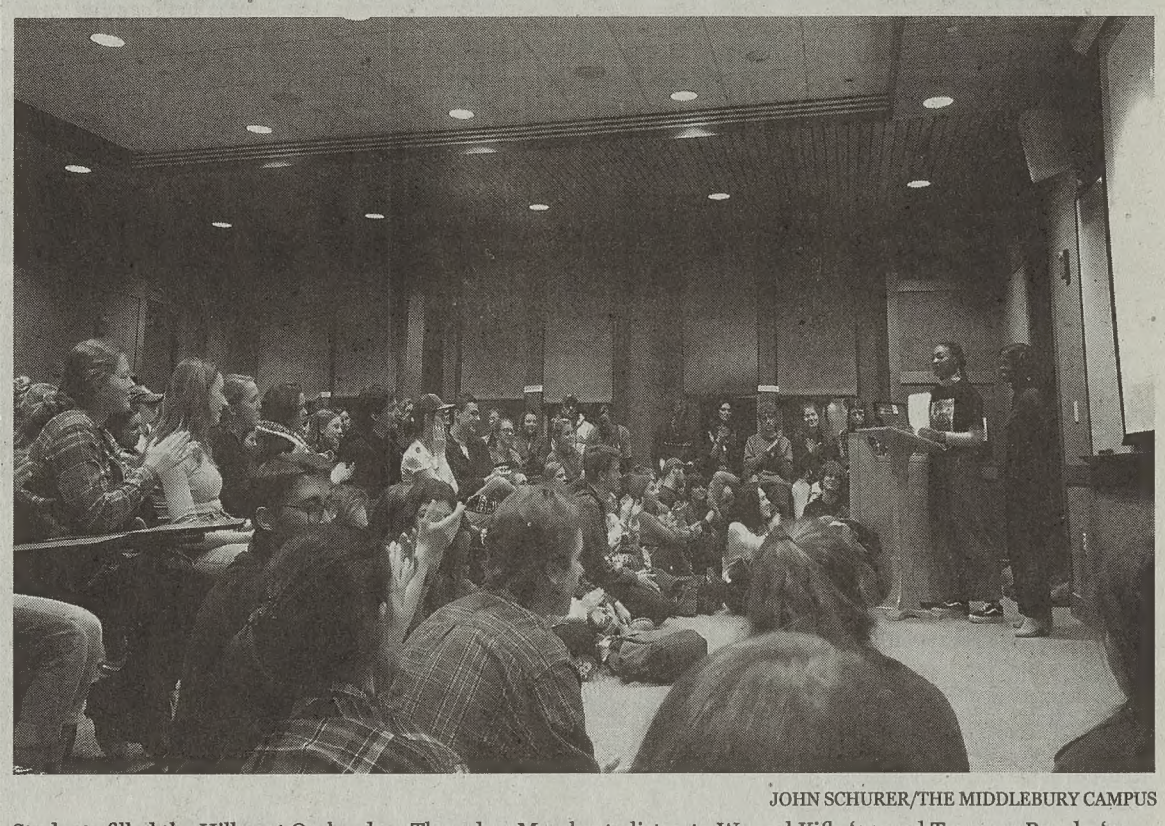
Ultimately, Gryzb and Hussey hope that students will take full advantage of the ski sites they have access to during their time at Middlebury. The Bowl's staff is eager to attract students, skiers and non-skiers alike.

"We're open and willing to work with all kinds of events and activities and recreation for year-round use of the Snow Bowl," Gryzb said. "If students are interested in having specific events here, they should reach out to us directly and give us ideas. We actively want to attract and retain student patronage up here. Lay it on us."

Hussey is saddened, he said, when he meets seniors visiting the Snow Bowl for the first time. Though he doesn't expect every Middlebury student to leave the college a serious skier, he hope that all students at least learn to ski in the space that belongs to them.

"This is a mountain for the kids," he said of the Snow Bowl. "This is a unique space, the college owns it, and we want to help students take full advantage of it."

STUDENT-LED EVENT CONVENES WHITE ALLIES, FLOATS STRATEGIES TO DECOLONIZE CURRICULA



JOHN SCHURER/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Students filled the Hillcrest Orchard on Thursday, March 7 to listen to Wengel Kifle '20 and Treasure Brooks '21 discuss a plan to help the college diversify the curriculum.

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floor in the back corner of the room, turned to the person beside her, and whispered, "What's Carr Hall?" The other student, also white, just shook her head.

At the end of the meeting, the presenters had participants break into groups by academic department and then passed out petitions, urging students to approach professors about the need for Middlebury to undergo an institutional process of academic decolonization, and to request that faculty members sign on in support.

The meeting organizers began co-writing the petition the day after Brooks served as guest discussion leader for Middleground, a new student group created as a platform at the end of last year for students to share personal stories about the challenges they face at Middlebury. Brooks, a History major, told The Campus about a STEM major who spoke at Middleground and started to cry while describing an experience with intolerance in the classroom, and the profound effect it had on her own attitude toward college academics.

"The violence we experience in the classrooms is truly across disciplines," Brooks said.

Changing the social climate on campus is a complex endeavor, but Brooks and Kifle see expanding diversity within curricula as a goal that is both critical and attainable. Brooks read the college's mission statement aloud during the meeting, emphasizing its claim to prepare students to "contribute to their communities, and address the world's most challenging problems."

"Whose community are we learning how to help, to engage with?" she said. "Whose?"

Most Middlebury students would describe themselves as allies, Kifle, who is also black, said in an interview with the Campus. But she noted that white students lack the double consciousness held by students of color and, as a result, frequently don't realize that they are not getting the entire perspective. Expanding the curriculum, she said, helps everyone.

"It's not that people of color need this more," Brooks said. "The chasm in our education is more visible to us because we know our own history and we know what's missing."

Middlebury's mission statement promises to prepare students to address the world's most challenging problems, but the current lack of global, critical perspectives presented in the classroom fails to accomplish that, Kifle said. Limiting the voices available to students to one dominant demographic, specifically white men, hinders the scope of their education and leaves them unprepared to face real world issues.

"Professors are just serving as moderators instead of educators," Kevin Mata '22 said, after Brooks invited students of color to share their opinions about the academic environment.

"A lot of them are teaching the way that they were taught," Brooks said at the meeting. "That does not make it right."

Kifle told The Campus that the petition circulated at the meeting demands the education Middlebury already claims to provide its students, holding the college accountable for what its mission statement promises.

"What we're attempting to do is not radical whatsoever," Brooks said.

"We all come with different misconceptions about people who are different from us," said Francoise Niyigena '21, one of the founders of the student organization Middleground. She started the organization with a group of friends after they realized that they had all come to college expecting to have transformative conversations with people who were profoundly different from them, but that those conversations rarely happened. Niyigena said that most students who currently attend meetings are struggling with some aspect of campus culture, or face discrimination in the broader community, but that the group welcomes anyone who wants to learn.

Middleground meets every other Thursday from 6–7:30 in the Hillcrest Orchard. Kifle will facilitate its next meeting, focusing on immigrant students' experiences, on March 14.

Kifle told The Campus that the petition serves as concrete evidence of support, but that their main motivation for holding the meeting was to raise awareness about, and increase student involvement in, the process of decolonizing Middlebury's curriculum. The "White Allies" organizers said they had big plans moving forward, but added that those plans depend on white allies' continued support.

Academics Concerned with Government Attempts to Regulate Free Speech in Potential New Order

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pus" that identified suppression of free speech as one of the two gravest college dilemmas, alongside opioid addiction. One of the panelists referenced Middlebury as an example of protests turned violent.

Now, Trump's order seeks to link its defense of free speech with the federal dollars that private colleges collect from the government for research projects. Middlebury received $4,987,440 in federally sponsored research funds in the 2018 fiscal year, more than $3 million of which went to the Institute of International Studies at Monterey. Even more may be at stake for the private research universities which receive billions annually, like John Hopkins University in Maryland, which led all universities with $2.6 billion spent on research during the 2017 Fiscal Year.

Higher Ed Braces Itself

In an email to The Campus, President Laurie L. Patton expressed opposition to Trump's proposal, saying it "raises many legal and policy questions and would be deeply problematic for the country's 4,000 institutions of higher education.

"Middlebury believes freedom of expression is essential in higher education and that it allows people who have less power in society to have an equal voice in the public square," Patton wrote. "While I think the federal government could do many things to help higher education in this country, saddling colleges and universities with an obligation this vague, easily abused, and impossible to administer is not among them."

Higher education experts and administrators appear united in their opposition to the proposal. Even those who have staunchly encouraged universities to protect free speech on their campuses, like University of Chicago President Robert Zimmer, have vocalized concerns about the motion.

Middlebury Professor of Political Science Murray Dry, who studies constitutional law and freedom of speech, thinks Trump should reconsider his statement and leave the decision making to the schools in question.

"The colleges and universities, such as Berkeley and Middlebury, are well aware of the problems and have taken steps to assure freedom of speech and to maintain security," he said.

Private universities already comply with certain requirements to receive federal funding, such as ethical guidelines on research involving human subjects, but have typically enjoyed more leeway on matters of speech. Public universities, on the other hand, must follow certain rules regarding speech set forth by the government. For example, they must apply the same rules about inviting guest speakers to all student organizations, regardless of content, unless it can be proven that a speaker may incite or produce violence.

Trump's order would most likely hold private universities to similar standards. What this means exactly is unclear, given the ambiguity of his speech. For now, experts can only speculate.

Dry and Matthew Dickinson, also a Political Science professor, both think that if it were implemented, the order would be overseen and implemented by the Department of Education, which would develop rules and procedures for holding universities accountable. But Dickinson wondered if the order will even get that far, suggesting it may be on shaky legal footing.

"It's not clear to me that (the president) does have the authority to define free speech via an executive order," Dickinson said. "If he does, and asks his administration to enforce it via withholding of funds, it almost certainly will be litigated in the courts."

Deciding what is and what is not free speech historically has fallen outside the president's purview. The courts usually set regulations on speech, and have previously upheld laws restricting what they deemed harmful or violent speech on campuses. Usually, the executive branch has only been involved in such matters during times of war to limit speech posing a "clear and present" danger to society.

In any case, the order has the potential to affect Middlebury and its peers negatively, Dickinson fears.

"Historically, whenever people in positions of authority try to regulate speech, they typically do so in ways that disproportionately affect politically marginalized groups," he said. "We saw this in the fallout from the Charles Murray protest. The college reacted by clarifying their protest policies. Without passing judgment on the college's effort, I will say that it is the predictable reaction by those in authority to the damage inflicted on free speech by that incident.

"I would worry that in their effort to protect free speech, the Trump administration may inadvertently weaken protections that are so vital if a liberal arts college is to engage in the free and unfettered exchange of ideas," he added. " It is far better, I think, to err on the side of protecting speech from regulation than to rely on the government to define it for us."

Contradictions & Ambiguities

Others see the proposal as largely symbolic. Lata Nott, executive director of the First Amendment Center at the nonprofit Freedom Forum, told The Campus that she supports the idea of conservative and controversial figures speaking at universities, but sees Trump's attempt to meddle in the affairs of private universities as an overreach.

Nott finds the proposal strange for a number of reasons. For one, the incident at UC Berkeley, which seemed to precipitate the announcement, involved two adults who were not affiliated with the university in question, which makes Nott wonder where the administration will draw the line.

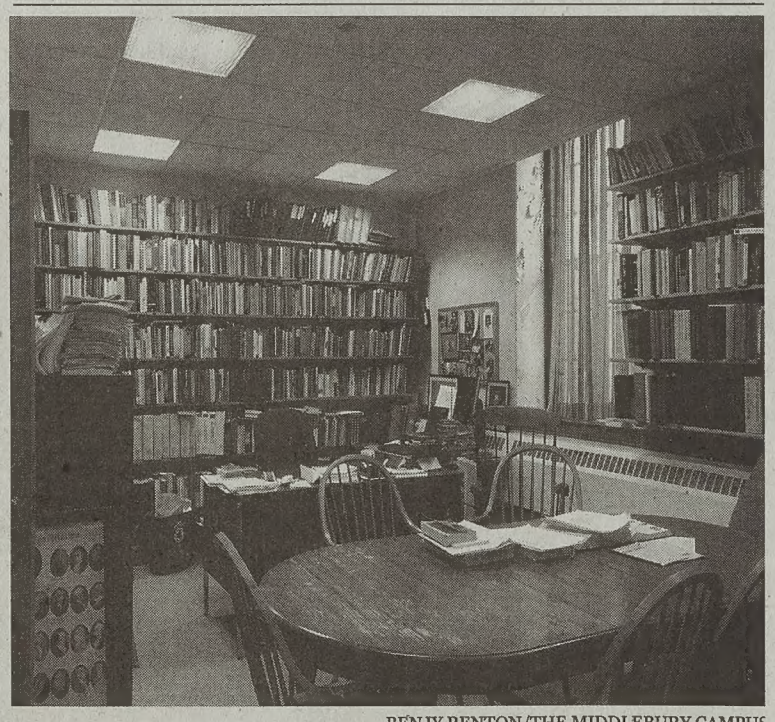
"Would that mean that anyone who does anything on the university is held accountable?" Nott said. "At what point does the free speech penalty kick in?"

In his speech, Trump told Williams he should sue UC Berkeley for the incident. The public university was already the target of a 2018 lawsuit that alleged it discriminated against conservative speakers, which it settled. Part of the settlement required the school to adopt policies that would make it harder for students to shout down conservative speakers.

Nott also noted that sometimes, government efforts like this one end up injuring the very doctrines they aim to protect. Most recently, states with Republican-led legislatures, including Arizona, Wisconsin, North Carolina, and Georgia, have passed laws that would require universities to punish students for protesting on public college and university campuses, and other states are following suit.

But Nott argued that these laws are self-defeating because they they limit another manifestation of freedom of speech — the right to protest.

"I'm in support of speakers coming to campus, regardless of what their political stripe is or if they're offensive," Nott said. "But protest is also a First Amendment right. You can't really pick and choose what you want."



BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Professor of Political Science Murray Dry's large front office in Munroe.

COLLEGE WILL RENOVATE MUNROE HALL

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building does not boast the grandeur that some other parts of campus are known for.

"When you go in you say, wow this is really cool. Is it a stone building with a pitched roof? No. But it is not in the middle of campus. It is tucked away, and it is allowing us to get into Munroe and possibly many other buildings," McGinn said.

Munroe's renovation marks the beginning of the college's 10-year Academic Space Master Plan. Upon its completion in the summer of 2020, the college will begin work on Warner Hall. Other future projects may include the renovation of Johnson Memorial Building and Adirondack House — home of the Center for Careers and Internships — both of which possess similar accessibility concerns to Munroe's.

"It's nice to see that Middlebury is investing equally in the social sciences as they are in the sciences," said Gia Gould '19, a Political Science major. "It's important to communicate that all fields of study hold equal value to the liberal arts education."

The 'Ayes' Have It: Results of Town Meeting Day 2019

By HATTIE LEFAVOUR
Local Editor

MIDDLEBURY - As the town poured into the Middlebury Union High School auditorium at 7 p.m. last Monday night for the annual Town Meeting, energy was high. Some brought their knitting, some brought brownie-wielding toddlers and all brought their own perspectives to add to the night's nearly three hour discourse. Joining towns across Vermont in a tradition over 200 years old, the 2019 Middlebury Town Meeting used direct democracy to tackle issues such as the budget for the upcoming year, infrastructure initiatives, environmental proposals and the election of local officials.

This year, Middlebury joined Burlington and Manchester in passing a long-awaited and hard-fought article to advise the Selectboard to ban single-use plastic bags in retail locations. The article, which was spearheaded by local resident Amy McAninch and Middlebury student Amelia Miller '20, was approved on Tuesday's Australian Ballot vote at Town Hall. It passed in Middlebury with a vote of 838 to 211. At the meeting itself, attendees unanimously approved Articles 1-7. This included a long-debated town budget of $11,155,400, spending plan approvals and the allocation of a $400,000 surplus from the Cross Street Bridge Reserve Fund to be put toward capital projects and to serve as a property tax cushion.

For some, this year's gathering was bittersweet. Former Governor and longtime Middlebury resident Jim Douglas '72 has moderated Middlebury's Town Meeting since 1986, and after 32 years serving the town, 2019 was Douglas' last. Before public debate began, the Selectboard dedicated their annual town report to Douglas among cheers and a standing ovation from the attendees. Selectboard Vice Chair Nick Artim lauded the retiring moderator for "his calm demeanor, his dry sense of humor and his amazing ability to know and remember the names of almost everyone in the audience."

As the meeting continued, it became clear what he meant. Douglas moderated discussion with a cool hand for almost three hours, calling on most townspeople to speak using a first-name basis. Much of this time was spent deliberating over fiscal Articles 2-4, which included use of the Cross Street Bridge Reserve Fund surplus, purchase of new town vehicles and the adoption of the proposed budget for the upcoming year. Each of these articles passed, including a friendly amendment to Article 4 on the provisions of the town budget.

Articles 5-7 were approved with less discussion. These included means of collecting local taxes and, in Article 7, authorization of a loan of up to $100,000 for the Memorial Sports Center. This article passed with a friendly amendment as well, which will allow for the renewal of the loan as needed.

It was around 9 p.m. by the time Article 7 passed, and parents had begun quietly carrying their sleeping kids out of the auditorium. The night wasn't over yet, though. Article 8, the final item on the night's agenda, was not a vote but rather a chance for discussion of pertinent town topics.

State Senator Ruth Hardy spoke first, standing to read a resolution in honor of the Foster Brothers Farm for having recently become the first New England farm to receive the national Innovative Dairy Farmer of the Year award.

Article 8 also allowed for discussion of the articles that would be voted on in the following day's Australian ballot election. This included time for the candidates for town government positions to introduce themselves, and for Middlebury student Amelia Miller '20 to give a presentation on her proposal for a town-wide ban on single-use plastic bags.

The ban, which passed by a significant margin of votes the next day, proved to be compelling to the crowd. Many stood to voice their support for the article after Miller's plea to consider the environmental impact of non-reusable plastics. Middlebury resident Steve Gross even stood to add, "I believe this is almost a no-brainer."

Inspiring winces and sighs from the attendees, Miller explained that in a town like Middlebury with a population of 8,598, the ban would annually reduce the use of bags by 4.6 million, eliminate approximately 120 metric tons of greenhouse gas and save retailers $182,000. "We just use an exorbitant amount of plastic bags," Miller remarked.

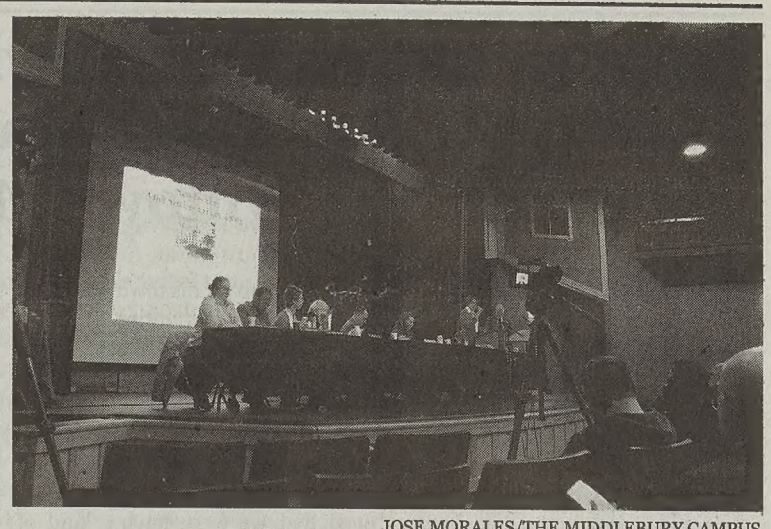
Despite the Article's passage, the town of Middlebury will still allow use of specific recyclable or reusable plastic bags such as those used for dry cleaning. The town will instead eliminate single-use bags such as those provided in grocery store check-out aisles, and paper bags will still be permitted.

> ***"The 'ayes' have it, and the annual meeting stands adjourned."***

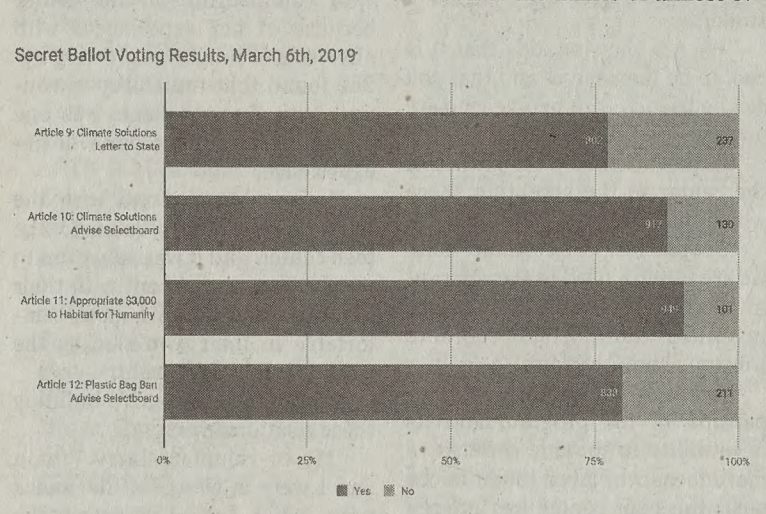
Other Articles passed in Tuesday's Australian Ballot vote included a motion to appropriate $3,000 to the Habitat for Humanity of Addison County to support affordable housing and a motion to advise the Selectboard to send a letter to the Vermont Statehouse in support of the 350VT Climate Solutions Resolution. Article 10 was comprised of a motion to advise the adoption of the same Climate Resolution locally, including initiatives to reduce energy usage and to install solar panels on town and school buildings. Each of these Articles passed with a significant majority.

Several town officers were also elected in the Australian Ballot, including Listers Gary F. Baker and Elizabeth J. Dow; Selectboard members Nick Artim, Victor Nuovo and Heather J. Seeley; Ilsley Library Trustees Alice L. Eckles, Joe McVeigh and Catherine P. Nichols and, taking over for former Governor Douglas as Moderator, Susan E. Shashokm

It was nearing 10 p.m. when the meeting finally concluded with cheers from the sprinkle of residents still in the auditorium. For some, this year's Town Meeting was yet another continuation of a tradition they have known their whole lives. For others, this year's meeting brought renewed hope to improving Middlebury's infrastructure, community and environment. And for retiring Moderator Jim Douglas, the end of the meeting marked his last motion on the town stage. "The 'ayes' have it, and the annual meeting stands adjourned."



JOSE MORALES/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
The Selectboard on stage at the Town Hall Meeting on March 5.



ISHA KOTHARI /THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
Secret Ballot Voting Results from Town Meeting Day.

Burlington School Food Project Tackles Regional Food Insecurity for Youth

By NORA PEACHIN
Staff Writer

Replacing the usual microgreens and honey-ginger soy elixir of Burlington restaurant Butch + Babe's menu on Wednesday, Feb. 27, was an unlikely selection; Vermont meatloaf and veggie tots. The school lunch-inspired dinner, called the Love School Lunch dinner, was held as a fundraiser for the Burlington School Food Project, an organization working to provide healthy meals to all Burlington school district students.

The Food Project serves daily lunches, free to students at certain schools in the district, as well as free breakfast and supper for all students and free lunches during summer break.

"A lot of times, the focus of schools is test scores, classroom sizes, or curriculum development. But all of this is not really important when your students are showing up to school hungry and malnourished. Our work is ensuring students are ready to learn," Assistant Director Heather Torrey explained.

Torrey studied community nutrition at the University of Vermont, where she realized the impact she could have on the community by working in food services. "The work we do every day impacts the students who have our meals," Torey said. In total, the Project provides over a million meals to students in the Burlington school district per year.

Burlington School Food Project is also committed to buying local whenever possible. According to their website, 20 percent of their annual food costs goes directly to local producers and growers, and this number increases to 33 percent when fluid milk is included in the costs.

The organization receives a combination of state and federal funding for school meals, but has to self-fund other programs. The funds raised from the Love School Lunch dinner will go towards these efforts.

One inititive the Burlington School Food Project has taken on is hunger relief over school breaks. The organization began preparing food for students to take home over breaks to help meet this need. "What some folks don't think about is that holiday breaks are often a source of stress for many of our students— they're missing the opportunity to get the only meal they have during the day, which is school lunch," Torrey said.

In addition, the Burlington School Food Project provides educational opportunities— school gardens, cooking classes and its summer food truck, Fork in the Road. Food Education Manager Sarah Heusner has been running the truck for six seasons. It functions as job training for students in "culinary and hospitality skills, workplace obligations, self-advocacy and confidence," Heusner detailed.

The truck has also become a huge mentorship opportunity. Heusner finds mentorship lacking for teenagers, and so has made that a focus of her work. She also pointed out that most of her employees are ESL students, so working on the food truck also serves as an opportunity to improve their English.

Aside from raising funds, the Love School Lunch fundraiser was also intended to "highlight how essential Burlington school kitchens are to the community," according to Torrey. Heusner hoped the dinner would "bring about community awareness of who we are." She believes many community members do not understand the work of the Burlington School Food Project, and also do not know that 55 percent of youths in the school district are on the verge of being food insecure.

COURTESY PHOTO
Butch + Babe served school lunch-inspired meals to fundraise for the Burlington School Food Project.

One of the owners of Butch + Babes, Jaclyn Major, used to work as a school cook for the School Food Project. For the Love School Lunch fundraiser, Major teamed up with Jordan Ware of Hen of the Wood, another Burlington hotspot, and three cooks from schools in the district.

Heusner spearheaded the event, meeting with the chefs to go over the menu, plan the flow of the evening and do the marketing. To get inspiration, "the chefs thought about what they ate in school lunch," Heusner recounted.

Torrey hopes to expand community outreach efforts like this dinner in the future, in order to support the multitude of ongoing projects. She is currently working on overhauling the online nutrient database, "to make it more user friendly for families to get nutrition information for our food."

Also in the works is a new building project for the Burlington High School, the organization's largest site to date. "We're trying to improve our on-site composting efforts and reduce our food waste," Torrey explained. "With the size of our program, we have the potential to make a huge impact on reducing food waste."

Heusner's ultimate goal for her work would be to open a sliding scale restaurant, staffed by students and serving community members. She also wants to continue providing food to families over school breaks. She described how impactful it was "making hunger relief packages and delivering them to people's houses, hearing the responses and how happy people are to be in the Burlington community. It's lovely to see that people feel taken care of."

Visiting Professor at Middlebury Lana Povitz, who is teaching a course on food activism this semester, spoke to The Campus about the importance of school lunches. "Our federally funded National School Lunch Program provides essential support to families throughout the United States, in urban and rural areas alike," she said. "Advocates need to keep pushing the envelope, even during these austere times."

Povitz cited ending the separation of children by income levels in school cafeterias as the next item on the agenda. "Universal School Meals (USM) is the surest way to remove poverty stigma sometimes associated with using the National Program and get more children eating the food they need," Povitz said.

Although the Burlington School Food Project has managed to provide many universally free meals and has made progress on their other goals, some roadblocks stand in their way. Even though the Child Nutrition Program is permanently funded, the level of funding is debated every time the bill is reauthorized. "We will always be funded, it's just a matter of how much," Torrey said.

The recent government shutdown also presented an obstacle for schools and school meal providers. Confusion regarding the future of school lunch funding diminished the quality of some meals. Memos went out to schools, assuring them that they would continue to receive funding through March, even if the shutdown continued through February. "Some schools [panicked] and decided to stop serving fresh fruits and vegetables in case of the possibility that they wouldn't get funded," Torrey said. "We chose not to change the quality of our meals." Still, these added stresses can complicate the work of organizations serving school meals.

Torrey and Heusner both described feeling motivated, despite the challenges of their jobs, by the people that they serve. Torrey recounted working with a focus group of middle school students, discussing improving the breakfast program offerings to meet their tastes. "One student mentioned that she was happy she was part of the group because she always participated in breakfast, because sometimes she hadn't gotten something for dinner the night before. These moments remind me why I'm doing what I'm doing," Torrey said. "I feel lucky that I don't have to wonder where my next meal is coming from."

Addison Central Teens Offers Support and Compassion

By KENZO OKAZAKI
Staff Writer

MIDDLEBURY — Tranquility is perhaps the last word that one would think to associate with a teen center. However, before the kids arrive at 3 p.m., tranquility is exactly what one might experience at Addison Central Teens. Located at the Recreation Park near Mary Hogan Elementary School in Middlebury, the center has been running since 2008.

A pool table sits prominently inside the center, quiet and neatly organized with the cues standing in place on their rack. Cicilia Robinson, the center's AmeriCorps member, prepares for the afternoon snack. She walks around the kitchen deliberately, as if competing in the final seconds of a televised cooking competition. Devon Karpak laughs with Cicilia about their shortage of paper towels, of which they had only just received a new delivery.

Karpak has served in his current capacity twice, once in 2017 and again with the recent departure of the center's executive director. "My passion is serving youth, helping them with that transitional period in their lives, finding their passions, and making sure they make decisions that are going to benefit them in the long run while also making mistakes in a safe environment," he said.

Karpak emphasized the turbulence of adolescence. "You're gonna screw up," he said. Through these failures, however, Karpak sees the potential for growth. To him, the teen center is a place where teens can make mistakes in a safe and nurturing environment.

"You don't feel like the adults or the system is coming down on you," Karpak said.

Robinson has been with the center since September of 2018 and also emphasized the need for supportive supervision that is not as harsh as at schools.

"It is a place where they can explore things like non-sexual intimacy, and we understand that is important for growing as a human being," Robinson said.

The center serves a diverse community of teens in grades 7 through 12. Karpak said that one of the center's greatest resources is its diversity. The teen center has grown dramatically recently, experiencing a threefold increase in participation over 16 months. Participants are from a range of socioeconomic backgrounds and the

Continued on Page 4

Town Rallies for a Bowling Alley: A Cry for Fun & One Man's Plan to Revitalize Downtown Middlebury

By SADIE HOUSBERG
Senior Local Editor

MIDDLEBURY – "The idea is this: get the building. Gut the thing. Because it's hot garbage inside," said Scott Gemignani, owner of Tinker and Smithy Game Store. Gemignani explained his plan to bring new life to downtown Middlebury as he set up shop for the day, pausing to gesticulate excitedly. His plan includes the construction of a classic, all-ages source of fun – a bowling alley – in the previous home of the Ben Franklin store.

Front Porch Forum (FPF), a free online platform aimed at building community within Vermont neighborhoods, has become home to the town's growing bowling alley brainstorm. "Wondering if anyone is interested in opening a bowling alley in Middlebury?!" wrote Lerin Peters, one FPF "neighbor" in late February, sparking a flood of excited posts echoing this sentiment.

"I'd welcome this or any space that, as my neighbor pointed out "appeals to all ages, professions, genders & skill sets/talents" - year round to boot," said Erin Davis, producer and Middlebury College instructor, in a post on FPF on Feb. 24.

Scott Gemignani has an action plan. He wants to be the one to bring a bowling alley to Middlebury – but not just any bowling alley. The owner of Tinker and Smithy Game store has much more ambitious goals to create a space where community members and families can gather recreationally, high schoolers can have their first jobs and where even college students can find some fun off the hill after 5 p.m.

In a post on FPF responding to the community discussion, Gemignani wrote: "I've heard a number of times that folks would like to have a bowling alley, some night-life, something TO DO in Middlebury after the shops close. Well, I have a plan to accomplish all these wishes."

In keeping with the experiential and diversified business model he operates at Tinker and Smithy, Gemignani's plan would include a retro arcade, a space for community classes and after-school programming – including an offer to partner with the local teen center, a few food options done right, and of course a one- or two-lane bowling alley. Not to be forgotten, if he is able to purchase the building, he hopes to move his current toy and game store operation to the other side of the street as well.

Gemignani grew up in Bristol, Vermont, and returned to the state when he had finished "running around," as well as receiving his college degree. During the 80s and 90s, he explained, Middlebury was the economic hub for his town and other surrounding communities. That was before the Internet. When Gemignani came home, he noticed things were beginning to change.

"As I got involved in my kids and their community, their parents and their friends, and the schools, I noticed that we were having kind of this crisis of programming for kids," he explained. "Being a daycare provider, I noticed that there were no options for people to bring their children in the local area."

According to Gemignani, services for families are "next to nothing." Corey Hendrickson, photographer, videographer and longtime resident of Middlebury concurred.

"When you have kids you kind of get silo-ed," Hendrickson explained. "To have a place where kids can be loud and physical would be great. There's crossover appeal too because it's not just fun for that age group but I think I could see students there."

COURTESY PHOTO

A busy game night at Tinker & Smithy's exemplifies the store's experiential business model.

"I'm also a dad," Hendrickson elaborated. "I've got two small kids. The Town Hall Theater is amazing, the Marquis is amazing, however there's still a pretty big need for family friendly activities during, like, the 11 months of winter every year."

Hendrickson, like many other parents in town, is eager to see spaces where intergenerational gatherings can take place, where kids can let loose and people can be social after the sun goes down. "I'm an enthusiastic advocate," he said, and is more than willing to do what he can to propel a project to create a bowling alley along. As of now, he explained, there is a void that needs to be filled – one that can't be sustained in the long term by what he terms "guerilla parenting spots" for congregating.

"If everyone kind of contributes a little bit of time and their own skill set, I feel optimistic that we could figure something out," Hendrickson continued, encouraged by the momentum he sees building on FPF.

Admittedly, the renovations and construction at Ben Franklin would take a serious financial contribution. According to Gemignani, the building hasn't been updated in years; to gut and remodel the basement and first floor represents a considerable undertaking.

"I would eventually hope that the community would help to support the building because the amount of money that the building requires is substantial," he said. But for Gemignani and many residents, the stakes are high enough to make this endeavor an exciting prospect.

"[In] this town, like a lot of America right now, there's wealth disparity," said Gemignani, bringing up the importance of an affordable and public gathering place in rural communities. "There are kids at the grade school where their parents are not actually washing their clothes because the water bill is too high. You have single parents, single mothers, single fathers or even couples that are making tough decisions– like do we eat tonight or do we pay heat."

So, the official mission, Gemignani said, is "to build community and celebrate diversity and ensure that everyone can come in here and that this is a community space."

Gemignani is looking for investors, donors and community support to secure the funding for what he believes to be a "site with guaranteed income built-in." For more information or to contact Gemignani, email scottgemignani@gmail.com or make a visit to the local game store.

KENZO OKAZAKI/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Cicilia Robinson (left) and Devon Karpak (right) outside of ACT.

Teen Center Teaches Kids to Be Themselves

Continued from Page 3

center serves multiple LGBTQIA students.

"We are showing kids that it is cool to be themselves and that you can be friends with people who are not like you," Karpak said.

Karpak attributed the growth of the center to the accepting space which the center offers.

"People feel comfortable here, we are filling a need in the community; we're increasing our presence in terms of showing that people are welcome here," he said.

Robinson is excited by the expansion of the program and its new ability to provide services to more teens who need them. In the past, the teen center has offered activities ranging from boat building to financial literacy.

"They are being really present and they are learning and they want to learn even after being in school all day," Robinson said.

The center also hosts support groups for mental health and for LGBTQIA students. Karpak emphasized the need for these resources in rural communities like Middlebury and is excited that the center is growing to offer more resources for the teens.

"It is growing and filling into the places that are very needed in this community," he said. The center relies on volunteers, and students from Middlebury College often participate.

Robinson is the only full-time volunteer, so help from Middlebury students expands the amount of work that can get done in a day. Robinson and Karpak noted, however, that Middlebury students have so much more to offer than simply being helping hands.

"The kids think [Middlebury students] are way cooler than the adults so they can relate to them," Robinson said.

Karpak concurred, "Each Middlebury College student relates to a different group of kids within the teen center differently and really elevates the overall experience."

Giulia Park '19 got involved with volunteering for the center because of her experiences with after-school programs growing up. She found that the ability to connect with these students was one of the most valuable parts of her experience.

"I was able to bond with the teens that regularly came to the teen center, and it was super fun to watch them experiment with their identities and become more comfortable in their own skin as the weeks went by," she said.

Park remembered building these relationships fondly.

"My co-volunteer Lizzy Vinton and I were in charge of the snack prep, which helped us get on the teens' good side— there's nothing like grilled cheese to put a smile on the face of a moody teenager," she said.

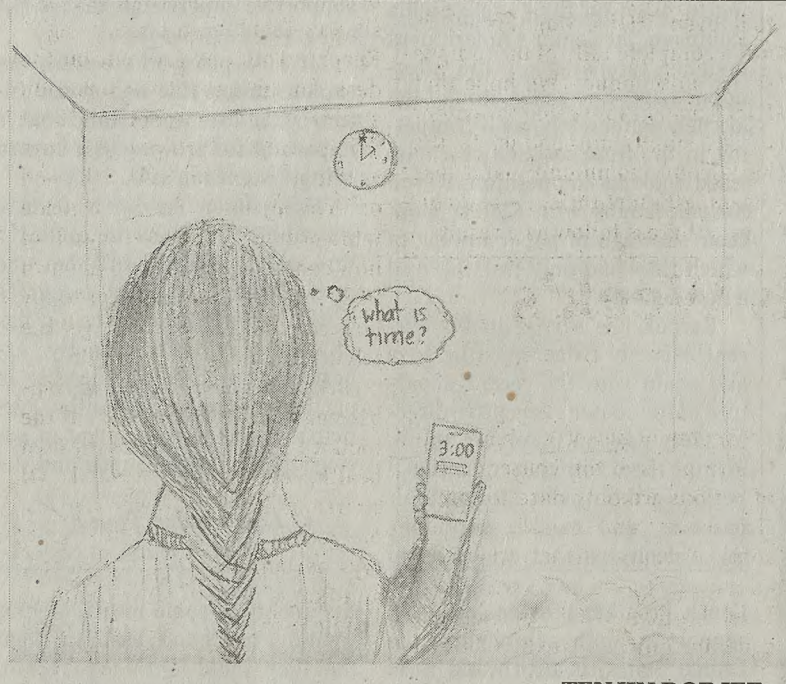
Karpak was emphatic in his desire to continue growing the center's relationship with the college. In addition to Middlebury student volunteers, a Computer Science professor also ran a course at the center and helped to install desktop computers.

"People feel comfortable here, we are filling a need in the community."

"We want as much interaction with the college as we can," Karpak said.

Robinson, a Middlebury alumna herself, stressed the importance of remembering to support the community that so strongly supports us.

"The kids need it and they're worth it, they're so worth it," she said.



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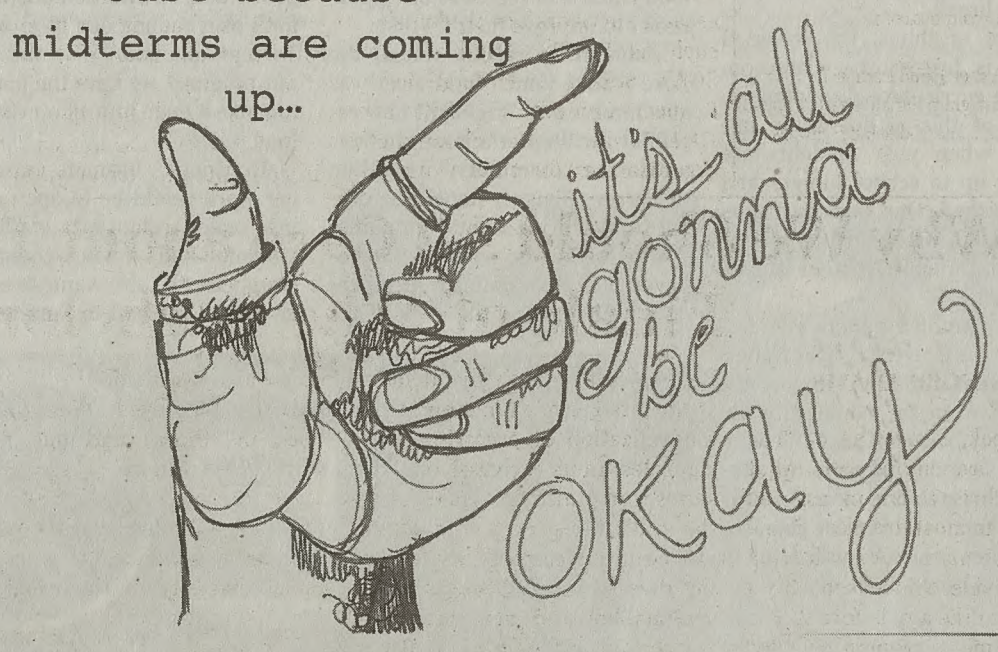

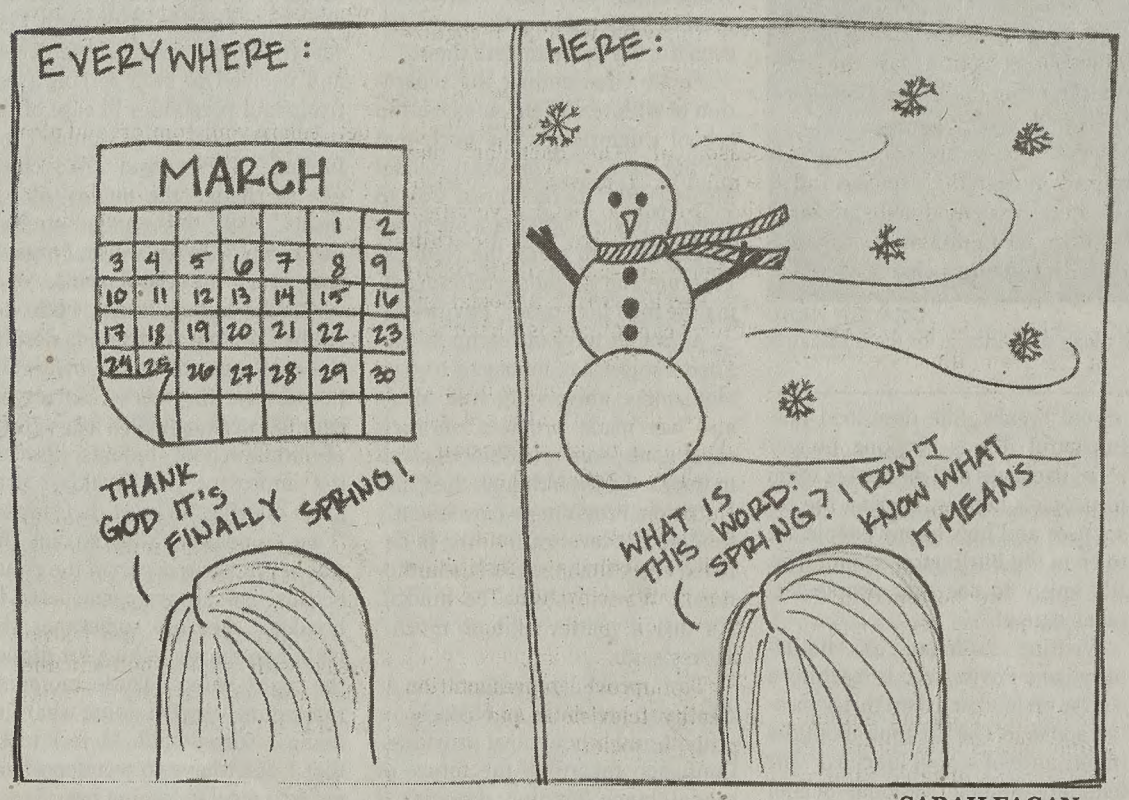
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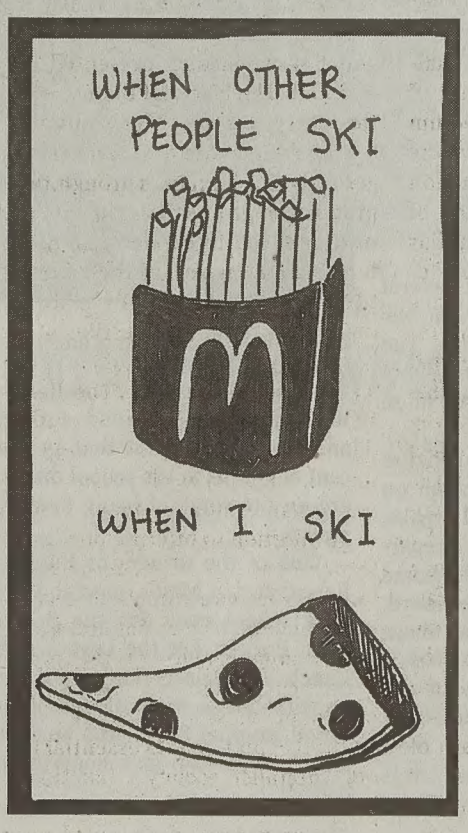

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More Is Needed to Combat Rape Culture

By THE EDITORIAL BOARD

We would like to commend the Map Project created by It Happens Here (IHH) as a crucial step toward increased awareness of sexual assault and harassment on our campus. While the number of incidents represented on the map may come as no surprise to some students, the map is nonetheless an important call to rally the Middlebury community against rape culture. It also demonstrates a clear need for additional preventative measures to protect students from assault and harassment.

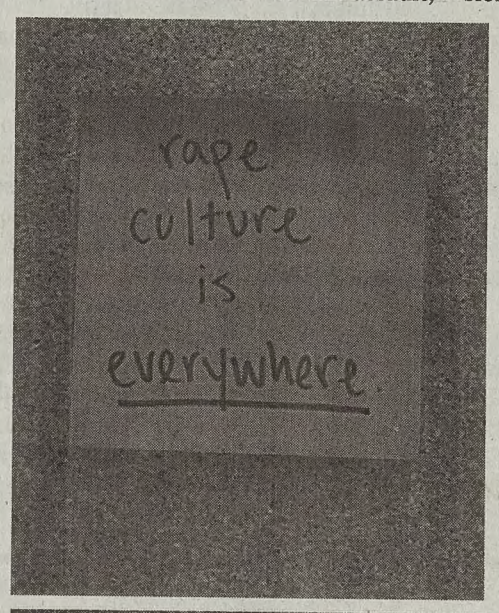
The concept for the Map Project is simple: an aerial view of Middlebury's campus populated with a series of red dots, each one representing an instance of sexual assault or sexual harassment that has occured on campus. To populate the map, students anonymously submitted data about instances of assault and harassment to IHH through a go-link posted last fall. By offering anonymity, IHH empowered survivors to share their experiences without losing their privacy or having to endure the process of formally reporting traumatic experiences.

The largest concentrations of red dots on the map appear in notoriously problematic buildings on campus, including Battell and Atwater Halls A and B, where athletic teams often host open parties. Since many parties on Middlebury's campus are closed, Atwater parties are often the default social space for first-years who don't have alternatives on weekend nights. It seems likely that the combination of an upperclassman living space and first-year partygoers contributes to a predatory sexual environment. Notably, the space with the second-largest number of red dots is Battell, a first-year dorm. This suggests that the online training intended to teach incoming students about consent and discourage them from committing sexual assault and harassment is not as successful as it ought to be in protecting first-years from assault and harassment by their peers.

Outside of residential and party spaces, even academic locations like Twilight and Axinn contain red dots, revealing just how pervasive sexual assault and harassment is at the college. If students are unable to occupy the spaces on campus that are explicitly devoted to education without fearing assault or harassment, then Middlebury is failing to fulfill its most basic purpose: to be an environment conducive to learning.

Currently, the majority of on-campus resources available to assault survivors are student-led, such as SPECS, MiddSafe, the SGA's Sexual and Relationship Respect Committee (SRR) and IHH. While we commend these organizations for their work, we also recognize a clear need for additional administrative support to more effectively address the issue of campus-wide sexual misconduct.

We ask that the administration take the Map Project as evidence that the Green Dot sexual assault prevention program is limited in what it can accomplish. Although Green Dot's bystander awareness training initiatives are an important first step, its organizers would likely be the first to admit that it does not change the culture at the heart of sexual assault and harassment. And the fact that the vast majority of the map's dots appear in social spaces suggests that even when bystanders are present near instances of sexual assault, they do not reliably intervene. A real social shift needs to occur in order for cases of sexual assault and harassment to approach zero. Students may not always know which of their friends have sexually assaulted or harassed others, but many know which of their friends behave "badly" at parties or demonstrate unhealthy attitudes about sex and relationships behind closed doors. Those students are the ones most in need of productive conversations with their friends about consent and respect. Bystander intervention can help in potentially dangerous situations, but difficult conversations among friends — and the absolute social unacceptability of harassment and assault — will be required to end the minimization of consent and trivialization of assault and harassment that contribute to rape culture.



MAX PADILLA/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
Students posted reactions to the Map Project exhibition in Davis Family Library last week.

We recommend that the college implement a new anti-sexual assault training program that requires students to learn the nuances of sexual harassment and assault in-person rather than online. The current electronic educational program students undergo prior to their first year is too easy for a student to click through without internalizing its message.

As a more immediate measure, we also think the new program could place a greater emphasis on the punitive consequences of committing assault. Perhaps if more students understood and feared the disciplinary repercussions of sexual violations, the overall number of incidents would decrease, at least in the short term.

Of course, emphasizing the consequences of committing sexual assault or harassment will be meaningless if the college does not make the process of reporting less difficult. Some students who report their experiences of sexual assault become so overwhelmed or distraught during the process that they simply leave Middlebury. While we know there are no easy ways of changing this system, we know that the more intimidating this system is, the more difficult it will be for students to come forward.

We also recommend that the administration explore the option of updating the college's weekend programming to provide students with additional options other than drinking. Middlebury's isolated location means that weekend activities for students are quite limited, oftentimes encouraging a party culture based on binge drinking. Programs like the free Friday film are a good start, and we think additional programming on Friday and Saturday nights could give students alternatives to drinking heavily and heading to Atwater.

We would also like first-years to have more opportunities to host their own parties rather than constantly being shuffled into upperclassman environments. First-year students should have more room to party among themselves to properly acclimate to college rather than immediately jumping into older, potentially more dangerous settings.

The college has often prided itself on its relatively low number of sexual assault and harassment reports as documented in its annual safety reports. But these statistics are misleading — the majority of sexual assaults on this campus go entirely unreported, which means that even IHH's Map Project is not a complete tally of on-campus sexual misconduct. We hope that IHH's map has revealed the extent of on-campus misconduct to the Middlebury community, and that meaningful institutional and cultural progress follow as a result.

Why We Should All Care about This Week's Finale of "The Bachelor"

By GINGER ADAMS

This week, Season 23 of "The Bachelor" concluded in what its host Chris Harrison assured would be the most dramatic finale in franchise history. View-baiting promises aside, this season's finale looked unlike any before it. For the first time, a woman of color competed for the final rose.

Despite accusations that challenge its faithfulness to "reality," reality television is a rich medium through which we can observe the processes of social reproduction — the creation and recreation of our society's structure. Familiar tropes repeatedly featured on reality programs saturate and drive our perception of ourselves in relation to others. The archetypal characters portrayed on programs like "The Real World" and "Big Brother" simultaneously reflect and reaffirm social stereotypes. "The Bachelor" contributes to social reproduction differently by normalizing the privileged class's dominance over capital. Implicated in the process of social structuring, reality television can be understood as a social institution advancing the incrustation of social roles and the preservation of our society's power structures.

Recognized as the first reality television program, MTV's "The Real World" perfectly demonstrates its genre's function in the naturalization of prescripted social roles. In its early seasons, the series won praise for representing the difficulties of young adulthood and for consistently featuring diverse casts. Over its many seasons, however, new cast members began to feel familiar. Their personalities were predictable and house tensions presented as scripted. The bisexual blonde was the party animal. The southern boy loved America and had a dangerously hot temper. Through the production process, cast members were reduced to caricatures, performing one aspect of their identity in expected ways. By matching dispositions to identities and suggesting these social archetypes as naturally occurring, "The Real World" structured how we understand ourselves and helped ingrain stereotypical personality performance into our gaze.

In addition to offering pure entertainment rapture, "The Bachelor" likewise contributes to social reproduction. The racial and economic homogeneity of the program's contestants illustrates the dominant class's monopoly on cultural capital that is essential to our capitalist society's functioning.

The franchise has featured one non-white Bachelor (a blonde-haired, blue-eyed Venezuelan born in Ithaca) and one non-white Bachelorette (a successful attorney and the daughter of a prominent Dallas judge). While the stars provided long-needed racial diversity to the program, they both represented a wealth of cultural capital.

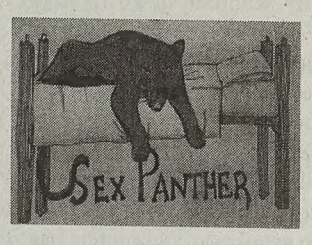
After facing a racial discrimination class action lawsuit in 2012, the program has made more efforts to recruit diverse contestants. Yet non-white contestants rarely advance in their season and are regularly denied substantial screen time. Unfailingly, a season ends with the engagement of two beautiful representatives of the ruling socio-economic class.

The program illustrates marriage as an institution complicit in preserving the dominant class's exclusive hold on power. The Bachelor's record suggests that members of similar economic classes who possess comparable cultural capital are ultimately compatible. The bottom line is: the dominant class intermarries — sometimes on television.

Critics dismiss reality television as misrepresenting authentic people and relationships. Yet fantastic fiascos of table flipping and drink tossing captivate us. Perhaps we consume them as experiments of power — opportunities to observe the consequences of actions we only dare to fantasize about from the safety of our sofas. Perhaps we devour them as means to identify ourselves. Like astrological charts and personality quizzes, reality television offers its consumers a map to understand themselves. Whatever it may be, we must recognize the genre's power in reproducing the structures that shape society. Tayshia Adams's run on this year's season of "The Bachelor" may symbolize a movement towards the program's racial diversification. Sure — like the non-white Bachelor and Bachelorette before her, Tayshia is rich in social and cultural capital. She is a beautiful, intelligent, witty and successful woman. Her stint on the program certainly does not imply a drastic evolution in reality television or the society it reflects. Yet we can celebrate her success and recognize its significance within the socially-structuring institution that is reality television. Tayshia's victory, along with making television history, could indicate a shift towards improved representation in reality television, and consequently, in society.

Ginger Adams is a member of the Middlebury Class of 2020.5.

Sex Panther: Get to Know Yourself



By SEX PANTHER

Editor's note: Throughout the semester you'll be reading articles from Middlebury students of different identities and experiences on all things sex and relationships.

I have a confession, sex kittens. I, the one and only Sex Panther, knower of all things sex, did not purchase my first sex toy until I reached the ripe old age of 20. I know. I KNOW. Commence the boo-ing and throwing of rotten vegetables.

But I also feel like my own experience is not too out of the ordinary; I grew up in a conservative household (surprise, Mom, I'm a sex columnist now!) and felt disconnected from my body. I didn't like to look at myself naked; I would run from my closet to my shower to avoid catching a glimpse of my prepubescent nakedness in the mirror. The culture was very much one of shame, of "don't ask don't tell" and of pushing down any hints of sexuality until you are of Proper Dating Age, and even then sex was supposed to wait till marriage.

When that little glimmer of sexual awakening first began, I was afraid of my own body. I felt dirty touching myself. Throughout high school, I felt this immense shame and disgust for my own body every time I masturbated. It took a lot of self-motivated body-positive, sex-positive education on social platforms that I didn't have access to at home.

I was dead-set on procuring a vibrator. There were so many options to choose from, though, I didn't know where to start. Rabbits, bullets, dildos, the intimidating holy grail magic wand, eggs, clitoral and g-spot vibrators abounded. But I finally had a single room and was tired of being too nervous to flick my clit while living with a roommate. So biting the bullet (pun intended) and buying my first silicone vibe from an Amazon account I created specifically for the purpose felt exhilarating. And terrifying. And really, really, really good.

Buying my first sex toy opened up my eyes to a world free of shame and full of pleasure. I originally hid it in my drawer. But then I thought, "fork it, why should I be ashamed of a piece of hot pink silicone that vibrates in my 'vag'?" Keeping your sex toys out on the desk can be a great conversation starter. I refuse to actively hide my growing collection of sex toys as if it is something to be ashamed of; leaving them on my bedside table not only reminded myself of how sensual I could be in my own body but also as a reminder to my hookups that if they didn't get the job done, I could do it myself.

Because when I started embracing my sex toys as part of the toolkit I used to maintain my own health, everything changed. Of course, not everyone who has sex may be able to or want to use sex toys as part of their experience, and that is perfectly fine too! And people who don't have sex may have more expert knowledge than you or I could ever know. That's what is so great about sex toys- - they give you the agency to say how fast, how slow, how hard or soft or any number of variables in between fit your comfort and pleasure levels. Exploring on my own, I discovered things I liked, things I didn't like and some things that felt weird but not like, weird weird, maybe a good weird, ya know? And that is vital knowledge to have of your own embodied desires if you plan on having sex with yourself especially, but also with others. Toys helped me gain the confidence and vocabulary to demand the best for myself and to stop accepting terrible hookups and start accepting mind-blowing sex with myself completely on my own terms. Now if you'll excuse me, I think I'll take a quick study break with some (non-silicone) lube and my favorite vibrator. Writing is exhausting.

Xoxo,
Sex Panther

Privacy in the Digital Age

By XIAOLI JIN

There was no lack of data security scandals in 2018. Right after Facebook admitted that it had a massive security breach that affected over 50 million users' data, Google shut down its Google Plus service since it exposed user profiles to outside developers. With companies in every sector racing to acquire and monetize user data, privacy concerns have risen to the center of public scrutiny. How do companies take advantage of user data and what are the repercussions of data monetization that users and regulators should be aware of?

Selling user data enables technology startups to provide customers with free services. For example, some free mobile apps require access to users' address books and camera rolls. App developers then sell users' contacts and photos to online data brokers. These brokers receive data from up to hundreds of mobile apps and website cookies; each provides insight into a different aspect of users' digital activities. Data brokers then create comprehensive profiles of each consumer and sell these profiles to advertising companies and other interested parties. Unsurprisingly, a famous saying has arisen: "If you don't have to pay for a product, then you yourself are the product."

Selling user data is also prevalent among large technology companies. This becomes a particular concern when tech giants combine their databases to probe deeper into consumers' private lives. According to Bloomberg, Google bought users' credit card transaction data from MasterCard to record if users make offline purchases after seeing online ads. Microsoft, Adobe and SAP have also recently announced the Open Data Initiative. Under this initiative, businesses are now able to consolidate their user databases run by each of the three tech giants, which massively expands their knowledge about their consumers.

Users may not even notice that their data is being collected. For example, many shopping malls offer free Wi-Fi services. Even if shoppers don't connect with in-store Wi-Fi, as long as they have turned on Wi-Fi service in their cellphones, their cellphones will constantly send out probing requests to communicate with available Wi-Fi nearby. Every probing request contains not only a unique identifier (MAC address) of the cellphone, but also all the past Wi-Fi networks that cellphone has used. Therefore, by installing in-store Wi-Fi, shopping malls can track shoppers' shopping routes by identifying the locations that shoppers visited before. London's subway system once adopted this strategy to track subway traffic during peak hours. As a response, many people turned off their Wi-Fi in order not to be tracked. Regardless, the moral of the story is clear: data collection is everywhere.

Companies usually justify their acquisition of private data by claiming they have made users anonymous. They say that user privacy would not be violated as all personal data has been pseudonymized, i.e., personal identifiable information (PII) like name and credit card number have been replaced by pseudonyms. However, research suggests that it is not as difficult as people may think to re-identify PII from pseudonymized data.

Let's begin with an "anonymous" collection of payment data, where each credit card number is represented by a pseudonym (e.g., some randomly generated letters). If we know at least four pieces of information about a person (e.g., he went to a particular grocery store on Monday, a bakery on Tuesday, a shopping mall on Saturday and a pharmacy on Sunday), research shows that there is a 90% chance that we can precisely identify that person, because it is unlikely that someone else would appear in the same four places on the same dates. Consequently, we can deduce this individual's entire credit card transaction history by searching transactions under the same pseudonym. In the same vein, even if websites and mobile apps pseudonymize their user profiles before selling them to online data brokers, data brokers may find it easy to de-anonymize these profiles and re-identify users' private information.

Although data protection remains a tough battle, legislative deliberations on privacy have been gradually catching up. In 2012, Congress successfully stopped Apple's app developers from sharing users' unique device identification numbers (UDID) with third parties. In recent months, proposals to strengthen data protection emerged from both sides of the aisle. Democratic Congressman Ro Khanna proposed an Internet Bill of Rights that covers a wide range of topics including net neutrality and the "right to be forgotten." Republican Senator John Thune, chairman of Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation, openly called for putting consumer data protection into law. Still, there is currently no single, overarching federal law that lays out the foundation for nationwide personal data regulation. Industry-specific laws and regulations govern data practices for each sector. Various federal and state laws proposed under different Congressional terms sometimes contradict each other, creating additional challenges for law enforcement.

We also wait in anticipation to see the Supreme Court's role in data protection. In City of Ontario vs. Quon, then Justice Anthony Kennedy justified the Supreme Court's restraint from drawing sweeping conclusions in technology cases. He noted that the role of technology and the corresponding social expectation of privacy were still rapidly evolving. Therefore, the

Supreme Court should act with caution when it comes to technology. Will the Supreme Court continue to show restraint in the years to come? Everyone is waiting to find out.

Xiaoli Jin is a member of the Middlebury Class of 2019.

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Faculty Side with Students on Climate Strike

This Friday, March 15, students in over 90 countries will walk out of school to demand action against the climate crisis. In recognition of the fierce urgency of this crisis, we faculty look forward to joining the action organized by Middlebury College and Middlebury Union High School students: to leave campus at noon and rally in the park across from Shafer's Market. We encourage all faculty, staff, and community members to walk in solidarity with Middlebury students at noon on Friday.

Signed,

Martin Abel
Molly Anderson
Julia Berazneva
Tanya Byker
James Chase Sanchez
Molly Costanza-Robinson
Laurie Essig
Kemi Fuentes-George
Peter Hans Matthews
Jonathan Isham
Rebecca Kneale Gould
Marc Lapin
Bill McKibben
Jason Mittell
Erica Morrell
Linus Owens
Michael Sheridan
Dan Suarez
Carly Thomsen

Introducing: Ask Tré

By TRÉ STEVENS

Do you need advice? Don't know where to turn or who to talk to? Are you wondering if people think the same things as you, but don't have the courage to say it out loud? Have no fear, Tréyoncé is here. My name is Tré Stephens and I am starting an advice column for The Campus. I want to take on this project because I believe that I give great advice and would love to share my knowledge with my fellow peers. I also want to start campus-wide conversations. While I hope to eventually turn this series into a podcast, the column is my first step. So if you think that you have a question you would like to ask me, send it to go/asktre.

Tré Stevens is a member of the Middlebury Class of 2021.

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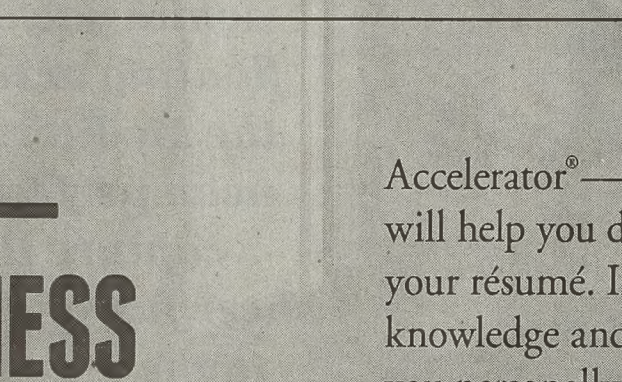
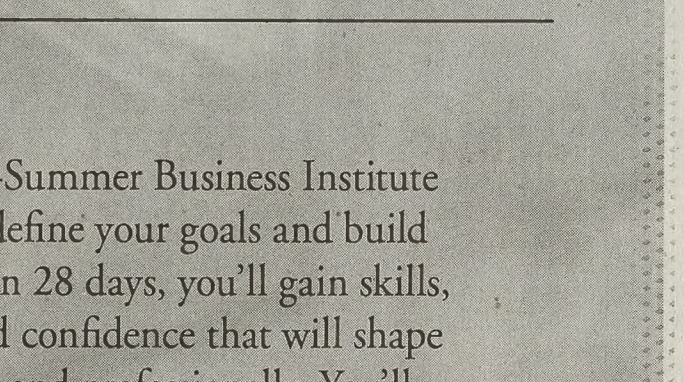



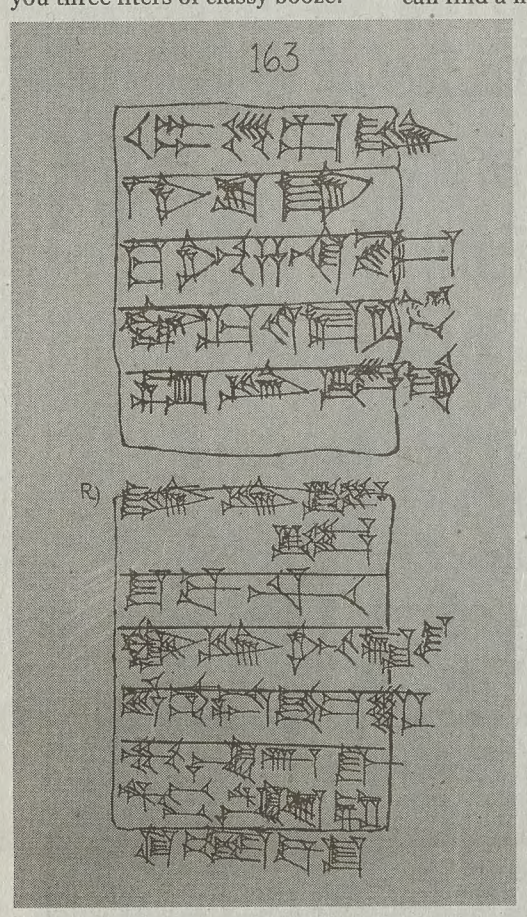
Contact accelerator@owen.vanderbilt.edu with questions.

The Past is Not a Place for Strangers: Beer and Special Collections

By BENJAMIN BEESE
Staff Writer

It was a long day and an even longer week. The weather was hot, the fields labor-intensive. All this poor guy wanted was to relax with a nice drink. So, Friday evening, he pulls together a small lump of clay and with his stylus scratches a note: "4 beer."

Or, to use a more expert translation, "Three liters of first-rate beer," according to alumni Seth Richardson '90. Beer, both a refreshing (and safe!) beverage as well as a gift from the goddess Ninkasi, dates back at least 3,000 years to ancient Mesopotamia (in modern Iraq). Our protagonist's proto-Venmo request was (hopefully) handed to the local keeper of beer in exchange for a jolly night out. There it sat, possibly until an invading army burnt the building in which it was kept, accidentally firing the clay and preserving it so thousands of subsequent generations can see that, before inflation, a one-inch lump of clay got you three liters of classy booze.



COURTESY PHOTO

This is all speculation. What is certain, though, is that this beer receipt sat somewhere in the world for the last 4,000 years, outlasting nearly everything we know about human culture and a good deal that we don't know. This small tablet now resides, available for any student to view, in the college's Special Collections.

To some (myself included), the prospect of our small school owning a 4,000-year-old cuneiform tablet is amazing in its own right. To others, admittedly less so. It is easy to be impressed by things of extreme age, of 'historic-value,' and, frankly, things that sound like they should be impressive. Yet, when we ask what really makes an item like this special, we can find a more human answer.

Poetic license allows me to refer flippantly to this tablet as a 'proto-Venmo request,' yet the comparison is apt. Setting aside concerns of technology and fashion, the two are not so different. This is part of the humility of this tablet; it has no real historical importance save for the fact that it's lasted so long in the same way that 4,000 years from now, your Venmo history could provide archeologists valuable insight into our modern society if only for the reason that it is, in its own time, entirely unremarkable.

[Four thousand] years from now, your Venmo history could provide archeologists valuable insight into our modern society if only for the reason that it is, in its own time, entirely unremarkable.

It is this common — even banal — aspect of the tablet that now fills it with meaning. In it, we find proof of a long history of enjoying beer, a history carried on by other Mesopotamians, by Medieval knights, by Martin Luther and his fellow Protestant monks, by American founding father Sam Adams and by Middlebury students today, to name just a miniscule few examples.

The past is not a place for strangers, although people in the past seem admittedly obscured to us, clouded by the thousands of intervening miles and years. It can seem that they live worlds apart from our daily lives. Yet if we look closely, we have a lot to bond over with those who have come before us.

After all, if we've all been buying beers for the last 4,000 years, what other experiences do we share?

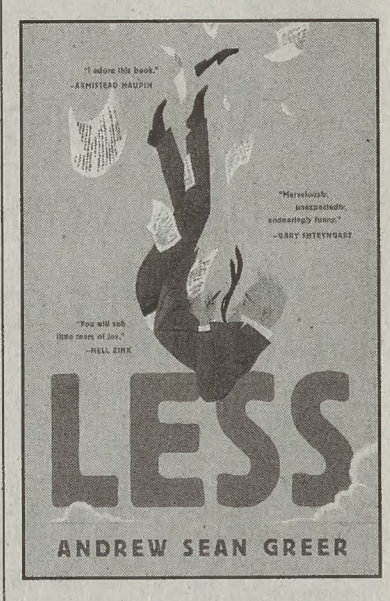
COURTESY PHOTO
This cuneiform tablet is one of many unique and fascinating objects housed in Middlebury's Special Collections and can be viewed whenever they are open.

The Librarian Is In

By KATRINA SPENCER
Senior Columnist

Literatures & Cultures Librarian Katrina Spencer is liaison to the Anderson Freeman Center, the Arabic Department, the Comparative Literature Program, the Gender, Sexuality & Feminist Studies (GSFS) Program, the Language Schools, the Linguistics Program and the Department of Luso-Hispanic Studies.

'Less' by Andrew Sean Greer, 2017



LITTLE, BROWN AND COMPANY

I was enchanted. I'm sure it was the book cover art that stopped me and attracted me to this work: a man is falling precariously but his only preoccupation is his writing. I needed to know more. The main character of this work is Arthur Less, a gay man approaching 50 who is, against his own design, still single. When his former long-time lover sends Arthur an invitation to his wedding, in order to develop a valid excuse not to attend, Arthur launches on a world tour to promote his writing, accepting invitations to speak, teach, travel and write in residence in Mexico, France, India and more.

Why did I love this work? I think it's the compassion I felt for Less and the degree with which I identified with him: he's a talented man whose talent is largely unrecognized and he's uncoupled, when all he wants to do is fold himself into another caring human being, preferably the same one, over and over again. And he's pitiful. And haphazard. And a clown, unbeknownst to himself. For example, who accepts a teaching position in Germany, leading German students, but can hardly speak German? Less's tale is one in which, like many, he leaves home to escape himself and destiny and finds them both en route away from them.

I also liked this work because I've read *so* few that prominently feature gay men. I learned more about some of the sexual mores of the gay, male community than I've ever encountered before. I do think the work has a slow start but ultimately Arthur Less is so winning that it didn't matter. Oh, and did I mention that this work won the Pulitzer Prize?

For more works by gay and queer men, see Vivek Shraya's "I'm Afraid of Men" or Dan Savage's "American Savage" at go/overdrive/, anything in the collection by David Sedaris, for example, "Naked", or search MIDCAT with the keyword "RuPaul."

Reel Critic: 'Transit'

By JOHN VAALER
Contributing Writer

It is a truth universally acknowledged that a mysterious rogue in possession of a dead man's passport must be in want of a femme fatale.

"Transit" (2018), the film most recently screened at the Dana Auditorium for the Hirschfield International Film Series, is set in a 21st-century German-occupied France. Sirens blare; jack-booted soldiers with automatic weapons harass undocumented immigrants. The film, based on a 1943 novel of the same name by Anna Seghers, tells the story of Georg (Franz Rogowski), a man determined to escape the Reich.

German director Christian Petzold wisely sets the film in the present day: one cannot watch the rubber-stamp horrors and xenophobia in "Transit" without drawing parallels to Victor Orbán. Or Marine Le Pen. Putin. Et al.

The first shot of "Transit" is a close-up of its protagonist, Georg, in a Paris café. Seemingly out of nowhere, an acquaintance approaches him with several letters and a commision. Georg is to fulfill the dying wishes of the resistance-writer Weider: he must travel to Marseilles and make contact with Weider's widow, Marie (Paula Beer). Once Georg obtains the dead writer's passport, he impersonates Weider in Marseilles so as to get political asylum in Mexico.

Hitches ensue: Georg falls in love with Marie, who wants to stay in France, but Marie is also in love with Richard (Godehard Giese), a cynical doctor. Inevitably, the layered plot of "Transit" twists as Georg tries to simultaneously woo a woman, dabble in identity fraud and flee from fascism.

"Transit" is not only the best film that was released in 2018, but also is one of the most dynamic pictures of the last several years. Petzdolm's movie has all the epicness and dread of "There Will Be Blood" (2007), but is also laced with smart humor and plotting. The film's shadowy fights in alleyways and white yachts floating across the Mediterranean perfectly captures the sheer fun of going to the movies. "Transit" is not a perfect movie; nor is "The Godfather" (1972). Both, however, are masterpieces.

The film's shadowy fights in alleyways and white yachts floating across the Mediterranean perfectly capture the sheer fun of going to the movies.

The finest scenes in "Transit" play out as Kafka-esque arbitrages between Georg and an assortment of bureaucrats who control the distribution of visas, tickets and IDs. Grey offices allow Petzdolm to ramp up tense dialogue. Shot by Hans Frommer, the cinematography highlights each nervous bead of sweat on the characters' faces.

Sharp wit oozes from the dialogue. Near the end, Georg is asked by a consulate-worker about the nature of romantic love (he wants a "writer's opinion"). The tight-lipped hero shrugs: "Maybe you should be the writer." There is a double-irony here: Georg impersonates the novelist Weider, but the audience also recognizes that by pretending to be Weider, Georg has authored a fiction of his very own.

Beyond its cat-and-mouse twitchiness, "Transit" also has genuine romance. Georg and Marie spend much of the runtime strolling across the boardwalks of Marseilles, smoking cigarettes and flirting. An authoritarian state may be seizing Europe, but the South of France's charm remains unstifled. Petzdolm's tense first and third acts underscore the film's Casablancan middle interlude.

An assortment of characters pop up in small but poignant cameos: a gloomy woman with a dog repeatedly appears in Georg's narrative. A man with a fedora is always seen waiting in lines, arguing with officials about passport photos. These brief performances give "Transit" an underworldly quality. Georg becomes an Orpheus of sorts, attempting to escape with Marie from a spectral Marseilles where nobody knows quite what is going on.

The movie ends as it begins: a man drinks Châteauneuf-du-Pape in a lonely café as soldiers march in the street. Cyclical and bleak, the tone's emphasis on déja-vu pays homage to Kafka. Like Josef K in "Der Prozess" ("The Trial"), the protagonist constantly duplicates his efforts to win the woman he loves and escape a totalitarian state, much of the time in vain. Characters die or disappear left and right, often without any explanation. There are chase scenes abound, but the movie's most harrowing segments are absurdly mundane.

"He knew that she was going to betray him," observes the world-weary narrator at one point. The characters in "Transit" seem stalked by an omnipotent menace — each relationship in the film has an ulterior motive. To paraphrase "Casino" (1995): in a fascist state, everybody watches everybody.

COURTESY PHOTO
"Transit", shown as part of the Hirschfield Series, sets the content of a 1943

DON'T MISS THIS

Alexander Melnikov and Andreas Staier, Piano

For his fifth performance at Middlebury, renowned Russian pianist Alexander Melnikov joins German pianist Andreas Staier—known for his exacting interpretations of keyboard music—to delight us with their all-Schubert program of four-hand works.

Friday 3/15 at 7:30 p.m. Robison Hall

Hirschfield International Film Series: Zama

Zama, an officer of the Spanish Crown, waits for a letter from the King granting him a transfer from a remote town to a better place. The years go by and the letter never arrives in this Argentine period drama from Lucrecia Martel.

Saturday 3/16 at 3 and 8 p.m. Dana Auditorium

An Evening of Songs and Arias by music students

Select music students present a variety of songs, duets and arias that range from the Baroque era to the present. Accompanied on piano by Annemieke McLane and affiliate artist Cynthia Huard.

Saturday, 3/16 at 8 p.m. Robison Hall

Techies Unite: Language Table Initiative Expands Its Options

By YVETTE SHI
Arts & Academics Editor

Every weekday shortly after noon, students fill the Redfield Proctor dining room and sit down at one of more than a dozen different Language Tables for a served meal with professors and TAs. At each table, everyone including the student waiter that serves it, speaks only the designated language. The idea is straightforward — to provide students learning the foreign language a space to practice.

With more than 60 years of history, the student-run facility is now looking to extend its reach. On Mar. 4, students and faculty member of the computer science department sat down at the pilot Tech Table.

COURTESY PHOTO
Professor Scharstein and six students attended the first Tech Table last Monday.

"We would like to extend this platform to non-language majors and would like to provide spaces for what Language Tables value and love, which are languages but also passion toward their learning subjects, the celebration of diverse cultures and inclusive platform for community engagements," reads the Language Table's official instagram account on the day.

Subin Cho '19 and Stephen Chen '19.5, Language Table managers for the academic year, shared that the idea of a Tech Table came partially from the fact that their technology manager, a computer science major, had not attended a Language Table yet.

The managers invited six students and one faculty member to the very first English-speaking academic table.

"Unlike the normal language tables, the focus of the table was not an improvement of a language (we didn't speak in a computer language if you're wondering)," one of the attendants Takao Shimizu '20 said, adding that the conversation topics ranged from internship experiences and academic decisions.

"I'd love to see non-language language tables to continue because they would facilitate communications and build communities within departments," Shimizu said. He also noted that because the Tech Table was open to non-majors and minors, undeclared first-years and sophomores could use the opportunity to explore the department and connect with each other.

Being from Germany, Professor of Computer Science Daniel Scharstein used to go to the German Table sometimes, and said that the Tech Table was successful.

"I think it's a good idea," he said. "And if they do one table like that for different departments — it doesn't have to be tech, I don't think there was anything special about it being a tech table — but if they have other things in addition to the languages, it's a nice form that you don't usually have."

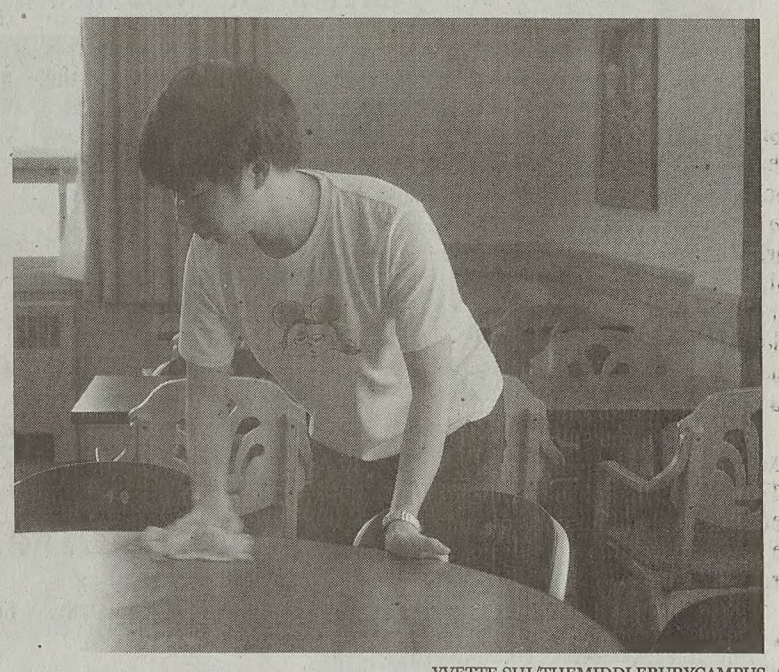
One of the main realizations that the managers had was that there is a lack of space for students to talk to professors in a non-academic setting. While the Language Tables have been providing students that for decades, Chen said that the the language-learning community represents a small fraction of the academic community, and the students who come to the Language Tables only comprise about 10 percent of the student body.

"So how do we expand that?" Chen said. "How do we open up the space where people can do that?"

Both Chen and Cho started working as Language Table waiters in the fall of 2016. Cho sees the Language Table as a particularly global and international space not only because of the diversity of languages represented, but also because of the way student attendees and student waiters bring encouragement to each other.

"What we deliver is not only the food, but also the spirit and the sense of language community," Cho said, explaining that the same sense of community applied to the Tech Table, even though they are speaking English.

At the same time, Chen brought up that there has been some concerns over English-speaking tables at a space that's otherwise solely dedicated to foreign language learning. Similarly, Scharstein said that English-speaking tables should probably be a small component of the initiative.



YVETTE SHI/THEMIDDLEBURYCAMPUS
Language Table manager Stephen Chen '19.5 cleans up after a busy lunch period.

There are 15 different languages at the Language Tables, some of which are offered only seasonally, including Korean, Cantonese, Swahili, Vietnamese and ASL. While the food is prepared by Proctor Dining Hall, the entire process from recruiting student waiters to arranging daily attendance is completely organized by students.

"I'm just completely amazed that the whole thing is student-run," Scharstein said.

The Vietnamese Table was a new addition to the Language Tables this spring term. Following the founding of Vietnamese Student Association (VSA) this year, Nathan Lam Nguyen '19 reached out to the Language Table managers about having a table for the Vietnamese community on campus. Now every Friday, Nguyen serves as the Vietnamese waiter for the table.

"You don't really need 20 students to set up a table," Cho said. "As long as there are some regular attendants or there are some demand of setting up a table, you can ask us and come to us; be like 'open up a table.'"

"There's enough Vietnamese students on campus for us to be able to probably have a table going," Nguyen said, explaining that he knows personally at least nine new Vietnamese first-years.

Consisting of 55 students serving tables of different languages, the work environment is a unique one in that student workers get to use a foreign language.

"It's a very interesting space just because everyone here speaks at least two languages, and more likely than not they probably speak three, maybe four," Chen said. "Meeting so many people who will go abroad, or have gone abroad or are from abroad really creates this interesting community within the workplace."

The next pilot table in planning is the Japanese Heritage Table, which will take place on Mar. 18. According to the managers, new tables in the future could be either academic and cultural oriented. "The focal point of the pilot tables is to give the space to those people that are unrepresented," Cho said.

PatchyTee: Student-Entrepreneurs Put Their Stamp on Midd

By MEREDITH ROBERTSON
Contributing Writer

"Rep Yourself" is the mantra of the new lifestyle clothing brand, PatchyTee, which was developed by three Middlebury sophomores this past summer. The start-up specializes in custom, embroidered patches that are designed by various local artists. Over the past few months business has grown exponentially, and they are not only filling campus-wide orders, but are responding to requests for PatchyTees from across the country.

The company's co-founders are three best friends, Will Brossman, Ryan Feldmann and Marshall Cummings, all '21. This "Patchy Teem," as they call themselves, make and sell comfortable wash-faded t-shirts with iron-on patches. The boys pride themselves on the ability to provide people with unique, high quality products with a retro vibe and a reasonable price. With thick Custom Color shirts and detailed patches, they definitely deliver on this promise.

"One of my favorite aspects of what we are doing here is how versatile the shirt is, how comfortable it is," said Brossman. "You can dress it up, wear it to a formal; we've seen people skiing in them, people wearing them as pajamas; there's no limit to what you can do in them."

The idea behind the business was born in August of 2018, in co-founder Ryan Feldmann's backyard after the boys noticed a growing popularity in iron-on patches.

"When Will and Marshall were traveling down the east coast for work over the summer," Feldman said, "we noticed the patches were becoming a trendy thing — after talking, we thought about making our own custom patches at an affordable price and putting them on shirts to sell ourselves."

"Put three friends together for the first time in a couple months, and good things will happen," said Cummings. "Will told us about his new infatuation with patches, and from then on we've been rolling."

To test out their idea, the boys ordered 100 grey and black shirts, and printed 150 patches that were designed by a local artist and friend in Marin, California.

By September, the Patchy Teem arrived at Middlebury and hit the ground running, filling orders for these shirts both on campus and off. Only a few months later the boys filled their first group order, designing patches for the Harvard vs. Yale game at Fenway Park.

COURTESY PHOTO
The "Pink Grapefruit" design is available now on the PatchyTee website.

"This game was a ton of fun! We got the patch designed by an artist out of UVA, and ordered 200 shirts to sell at a table outside of the stadium," said Feldmann. "We got there and quickly found out the Harvard SGA was giving out free shirts right near the stadium too... But we did end up selling over half the shirts we brought and had a blast. This first large order definitely taught us a few valuable lessons."

In January, the Patchy Teem was enrolled in Midd Entrepreneurs, a J-term class specifically designed to help guide young entrepreneurs in creating businesses or non-profits. The class was co-taught by Dave Bradbury and Sam Roach-Gerber of the Vermont Center for Emerging Technologies. Each week, speakers from local start-ups visited to give advice or answer questions about developing small businesses. At the end of the course, each participant presented in a final pitch competition, with a chance to advance to the LaunchVT collegiate pitch competition and win funding.

COURTESY PHOTO
Marshall Cummings (bottom left), Ryan Feldmann (center) and Will Brossman (right) (all '21) are student-entrepreneurs and the founders of PatchyTee.

"Midd Entrepreneurs was super helpful for the growth of our company," said Feldmann. "We were able to get our website built, build a pitch deck for grant competitions and really nail down what we want to represent with our brand. We were also introduced to many other student-entrepreneurs that taught us some valuable lessons that they learned during the making of their own companies."

During their participation in the class this J-term, the boys also released their new hat line, adding three suede ball caps with patches to their online store. To date, online inventory has expanded to include two styles, "The Shortie" and "The Longie," which are available in four different colors. Patch options are updated based on availability, and are not restocked after their release, making each design limited edition. The Pray4Pow, Biking Bears and Pink Grapefruit patches are all currently available online, and can be bought individually as well as on shirts and hats. These patches were designed by Middlebury student and artist, John Henry Hanson '20.5.

"We want people to have a shopping experience that merges fashion with affordability and fun," said Brossman. "Our mission is to get good local artists out there and have fun in the process."

You can find PatchyTee on Instagram at @patchytee or online at www.patchyt.com.

If you are a student-entrepreneur looking to connect with other makers at Middlebury, stop by the Innovation Hub for advising, information on entrepreneur-focused classes or opportunities for work spaces on campus.

Middlebury College Ultimate: Weird and White

PLAYERS SAY A COMMUNITY DEVOTED TO ACCEPTANCE IS MISSING THE MARK

By SIDRA PIERSON
Contributing Writer

COURTESY PHOTO

Members of the women's frisbee team smile and pose at the 2018 Northeast Women's DIII Regional Championship.

Editor's Note:

This piece was written for a longform sports journalism course in Winter Term 2019. The Campus is publishing it due to its relevance in today's politicized climate. The author supplemented research and interviews with past and present Middlebury students with her perspective as a member of the Middlebury Pranksters.

It was the day after Charles Murray visited Middlebury College, leaving in his wake a community torn apart and questioning its identity. The arrival of the author of The Bell Curve sparked campus-wide protests, as students of color braced themselves for yet another message that they didn't belong. Many members of the college's ultimate frisbee team, the Pranksters, had attended the protests and were now arriving at the athletic center for practice.

Miyo McGinn '19.5, then a first-year, walked down the stairs of the Virtue Field House and sat down next to Mary Thomas, a senior captain of the women's team. Most of the players had already moved onto the field for warm-ups, and they were alone. McGinn is half Japanese-American, so she hadn't felt personally attacked by the events of the previous day like Thomas, who is half-black. Sitting there, off to the side, both felt isolated from their team. Looking around, McGinn thought, "I don't feel like they understand how tired I am right now, and I don't feel like they understand how deeply, deeply hurt I am right now."

While others set the turmoil aside in order to practice, McGinn and Thomas stayed where they were, coming to the harsh realization that their teammates and friends could not grasp the pain they were in. "We kinda just started putting on our cleats and never got past that," Thomas said.

Ultimate was first introduced in 1968 and has yet to become as institutionalized or bureaucratic as other sports as it does not have the extent of sponsorship, advertising or oversight from an officiating body like other popular American sports. Instead, frisbee has carried the countercultural attitude of its first decade into the 21st century. At its essence is "Spirit of the Game," the idea of spirited sportsmanship that places the responsibility of fair play and respect on each player, with players self-officiating games even at the highest level. Across the nation, ultimate communities pride themselves on being open and welcoming. And yet, students have indicated that in so many ways, despite welcoming players, the ultimate community's structure and behavior leaves something to be desired.

McGinn didn't realize this until her eighth year playing the sport. She grew up playing in South Seattle with the All Girl Everything Ultimate Program (AGE UP), which empowers young women of color by using ultimate to work toward social justice. Only when she arrived at Middlebury and joined a new ultimate community did she realize how intertwined ultimate is with whiteness. Holding up her hands and forming a Venn diagram, she said, "I think frisbee culture and white culture are almost entirely overlapping." To McGinn, ultimate had always been about social justice, and now it seemed to be purely a vehicle for socializing and drinking.

Why are those two circles in McGinn's Venn diagram so often nearly overlapping? For the Middlebury Pranksters, the reasons seem endless. Spirit of the Game and self-officiating instill in many ultimate communities the attitude that their sport is superior. The reality is that these unique aspects bring their own problems, highlighting implicit bias and inadequate cultural competency in coaches and players alike. Spirit of the Game, for example, relies on shared norms of acceptable behavior, which vary dramatically based on culture. If white players are those establishing what a foul looks like and what disrespect looks like, then whiteness is woven into the fabric of the game.

Some team members reflected on the ways in which ultimate's material costs also present barriers, both to playing the sport and participating in the community. Thomas remembered that new players were sometimes reluctant to go to tournaments because spending the weekend off campus was both socially and financially burdensome.

Divya Gudur, a sophomore on the team, said partying adds to a feeling of inaccessibility. The team has frequent parties, but "if you're on financial aid, you start counting every day the amount of money your parents are spending," she said. It makes it hard to justify participating in the party culture of the team. McGinn feels similarly: as a student who's taking out loans and whose mom is working two jobs all just so that she can get an education, she feels like she can't afford to indulge in the ways other students with a safety net can. "Especially if you feel like you have to try to socialize and participate in the binge drinking culture, it's sometimes a lot of mental energy you feel like you don't want to spend," Gudur said. This of course can apply to anyone, regardless of race, but it's frequently an obstacle for students of color who don't feel like they can take the same liberties as their peers.

You can find binge drinking on any college sports team at Middlebury. But ultimate culture isn't just a drinking culture. It's a culture of weirdness. Miles McQueen, a junior who no longer plays but remains as what's known as a "social member," remembered his first frisbee party vividly. Thomas came up to him and said, "Ok, here's a shot of vodka," while extending one hand. "And here's a carrot," she added, extending the other. So the two did a shot and chased it by eating a carrot.

McQueen recalled feeling both bewildered and amused at the time, but recognizes that some of this weirdness can be off-putting for new players, especially those who come from different backgrounds. Most newcomers are surprised by and maybe slightly uncomfortable with this goofiness at first, but learn to love or at least accept it. McQueen and Gudur, both people of color (POCs), take issue with the assumption that it's just something to adjust to. "POC communities have different cultural norms than majority white communities do," Gudur said. "I think the quirkiness sometimes doesn't fit into POC culture." If we already stand out, she says, why would we want to draw more attention to ourselves?

When the team did its bi-annual "naked run" last year, a nighttime streak through the library during finals week, McQueen knew a mask wouldn't offer him the anonymity in the same way as it did for other members. "Being the only black guy on the frisbee team, I just did not want to do that," he said. For this reason, the team didn't wear masks this year during its fall semester run.

But there's an important element that McQueen and Gudur come back to over and over again. Gudur said she has always felt incredibly welcome on the team, and McQueen acknowledged that while he was in a very white space, the team's unfailing openness and acceptance made him feel comfortable from the start. Neither indicated feeling that they have been treated differently on or off the field because of the color of their skin. McQueen looked back on his first year and noted how many people he met who to this day he considers genuine friends.

Connor Hanify '18.5 was also surprised by and grateful for the community he discovered when he became a part the team. He joined simply to play the sport he loved, but said, "The unique culture we had made it an amazing experience and challenged a lot of beliefs I had." In many ways, he said, the team is diverse. The variety of opinions, identities and sexualities represented on the team, along with the open and trusting nature of the community, has taught him to think differently.

> ***"Holy sh*t, these people I've been captaining with and friends with don't see racial justice and inclusion as something the Pranksters need to be dealing with."***
>
> ***Mary Thomas '17***

It makes it easy for Hanify to wonder if ultimate is just white because it's a new sport that originated in wealthier areas; he recognizes that "the places where I learned to play frisbee are places of privilege." Maybe ultimate just hasn't spread to other places yet and become pervasive across race and class divides like more popular American sports. Maybe it just takes time.

But when Thomas recalled her reaction in the aftermath of Murray's visit, it's impossible to deny that something more is at play. That day when she and McGinn sat on the side while watching their teammates play, she admits she may have jumped to conclusions about others' ability to empathize.

Why didn't she at least give her teammates a chance to prove her wrong? Because the year before, she had already seen what they would do with such a chance. A series of racist op-eds in The Campus newspaper caused an alarmed Black Student Union to join several other cultural organizations in writing a lengthy open letter to students. A player who was abroad at the time constructed a "Reader's Digest" of the message and sent it to the team. She urged everyone to read it and to think seriously about the issues in their community.

Immediately, a captain on the men's team wrote back. He scolded the individual for inappropriate usage of the email list and for not clearing the message with captains first. "This was my pivot point with my relationship with the Pranksters around race," Thomas said. She thought, "Holy sh*t, these people I've been captaining with and friends with really don't value the things that I value and don't see racial justice and inclusion as something the Pranksters need to be dealing with."

Thomas has thought a lot about what happened. "Spirit of the Game absolves people of their need for self-reflection," she said, and that plays out at Middlebury. She loved the weird culture and fully participated in it. But, she added, "I've seen that operate as a shield against criticism ... like, 'Oh, we're just these fringe weirdoes. We can't possibly be the oppressor.'"

There's a clear dichotomy between how the ultimate community presents itself — as fun-loving and accepting — and how certain members perceive and interact with the community. If the Pranksters want to be what they say they are, there's work to be done.

Change at the national level will be hard and take time. But in the meantime, Thomas sees hope in specific communities like Middlebury. "Individual teams can make little oases of inclusivity," she says. "That's my dream."

Rollin' the Natatorium Tide

LOG ROLLING CLUB PREPARES TO HOST 2019 MIDDLEBURY INVITATIONAL

By ERIN KELLY
Sports Editor

ERIN KELLY/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Chloe Fleischer '21.5 practices rolling against a teammate during practice in preparation for the tournament.

Editor's Note:

I am a member of the women's varsity swim team. I spend 20 hours a week selling my soul to the pool. Water is my natural element.

That being said, log rolling is hard. Really hard. For someone so confident, I spent a truly embarrassing amount of time sinking below the surface, rather than spinning on top. The movement itself seemed simple enough as I observed from the deck. However, once on the log, it didn't matter how many times I was told to stop jutting my butt backward and flailing my arms; I simply couldn't stay up for longer than 10 seconds.

I sincerely applaud the log rolling team on their amazing abilities and focus. Best of luck this weekend!

Middlebury's log rolling club will host the 2019 Middlebury Invitational this Saturday, March 16 in the Natatorium. The event will begin with an informal coaching workshop from 12:00-1:00 p.m. and then transition into the tournament from 2:00-5:00 p.m. The Panthers will face off against teams from George Mason University and the University of Vermont. Middlebury students of all log rolling abilities are invited to join both parts of the event.

"We're just going to be rolling here all day Saturday," social chair Chloe Fleischer '21.5 said. "Even if people have never rolled before, we still encourage them to come out because there's a lot of people who will be rolling for the first time at the tournament. It will be super casual and fun."

In a log rolling competition, two rollers stand side-by-side on the log and must manipulate the log by spinning and rocking in order to knock the other person off. Participants may not touch each other or cross the center line but are allowed to splash as a means of distraction. If the rollers are facing the same direction on the log, it's called a running match; if they are not, it's called a bucking match, and a roller receives a point each time their competition falls off the log first.

A typical tournament begins with a round-robin session in which participants are placed in small groups and compete within that group in a best out of three format. Based on the results, rollers are then seeded into the actual tournament bracket and compete in a best out of five match.

Middlebury's team meets twice a week on Sunday afternoons from 3:30-5:00 p.m. and Wednesday nights from 7:00-8:30. Club president Sarah Howard '19 first joined the team after being exposed to log rolling during international orientation and said that even though log rolling is technically classified as a recreational club, she considers it to be a real sport.

"It's physically exerting, and there's a lot of learning and skill development," Howell said. "It doesn't come naturally to anyone. You have to get used to the sensation of something rolling under your feet in the water and get over the idea that you're not going to die and hit your head. When I first got on the log, I was on for a split second, but now I've greatly improved."

Middlebury boasts the oldest ties to log rolling on any college campus; it was approved as a PE credit in 2005 and as an official club in 2011. The sport came to the Panthers with the arrival of the Hoeschler sisters: Katie '03.5, Lizzie '05 and Abby '10. The three were trained by their mother, a world log rolling champion, and their family donated the first log to the college. Abby is now the founder of Key Log Rolling, a company that makes the 65-pound synthetic logs the team currently rolls on. Key Logs spin like traditional 350-pound wood logs but are much more accessible for college campuses.

Today, the club is coached by Danielle Rougeau, an Assistant Curator of Special Collections and College Archives. Rougeau initially signed up to log roll when Katie hosted an informal class in 2004 but became immediately hooked on the sport.

"I saw it offered and I thought, 'How cool is this? I will never have an opportunity to do this again,'" Rougeau said. "But there's nothing else that feels like rolling. It was really about centering yourself and balancing yourself, and I just loved the sport. It was low-impact, not dangerous and a ton of fun. It was really quite addictive."

Under Rougeau's leadership, Middlebury's team has already won numerous past tournaments and looks to be a favorite this weekend. Rougeau said the Panthers "sweep most competitions" because Middlebury is one of few schools with regular access to logs for practice and has a core team of about seven passionate rollers.

"My rollers are now getting good enough that they beat me," Rougeau said with a smile. "For me, coaching is a true joy. [I love coming to practice] because I get to be a better teacher and they get to be better rollers. Then, hopefully they'll keep teaching other kids for years to come."

Skiing Ends Killer Season with 10th at NCAA Championships

By CECELIA SCHEUER
Senior Writer

The Middlebury alpine and nordic ski teams wrapped up a historic season this weekend at the 2019 NCAA Skiing Championships hosted by the University of Vermont, accompanied by crews of tailgating students and family members who cheered them on from the sidelines. While the team's results were not necessarily reflective of their massive feats this winter, the Panthers placed 10th overall out of 21 scoring teams, coming out of the four-day championship with 150 points. Utah won the national title with 530.5 points, followed by Vermont (476) and Colorado (455).

On Friday at the Trapp Family Lodge, senior Lewis Nottonson's stellar All-American performance paced the Nordic squad, as he completed the circuit in 56:56 to earn All-American status and a 10th place finish at the 20k classical race. Sophomore Peter Wolter finished next for the Panthers, crossing the line in 59:15 to place 30th overall. Rounding out the scoreboard for the men was senior Sam Wood, who completed the course in 1:00.05, securing the 35th spot overall.

"We had a really satisfying season with a ton of career best results from individuals and some of the better results as a team in recent years," Nottonson said. "It was particularly fun to get a big group of freshmen this year who were all so psyched on training hard. Winning Middlebury Carnival was also a huge highlight. It's tough to have everything line up where the nordic men and women, and alpine men and women all have exceptional days and to have that come together on home snow was pretty phenomenal."

Despite the stellar conditions and a few standout individual performances, however, Nottonson said it was clear at the end of the weekend that "a lot of the team left NCAAs wanting more and feeling that as a team, we underperformed."

On the women's nordic side, sophomore Avery Ellis led the Nordic team in the 15k classic race, completing the circuit in 49:40, earning her 18th place overall. Junior Annika Landis was second to finish for the Panthers, securing the 25th spot in 50:25. Sophomore Alexandra Lawson was the final scorer, completing the course in 50:39 to land 28th overall.

Alpine races took place at Stowe Mountain Resort on Friday, where sophomore Justin Alkier's ninth place GS finish in 1:58:42 earned him All-American honors and highlighted the second day of competition. Unfortunately, it proved to be a rough morning for the other men's scorers, as both sophomore Erik Arvidsson and first-year Tim Gavett fell during their first GS run.

"We were well-prepared coming into the week, but between tactical mistakes and bad luck, the results just simply do not show what this team is capable of. We had some great individual runs that prove our potential, and I'm super excited to join the alumni cheer squad and watch the team grow over the next couple seasons," senior Caroline Bartlett said.

COURTESY PHOTO
Caroline Bartlett '19 skis in the last alpine race of her career. Bartlett placed 19th in the slalom event.

Baseball Falls to Stevens in 10-Inning Game

By ISABELLA MARCUS
Staff Writer

After rallying for a comeback in the ninth inning, the Middlebury College baseball team (0-1, 0-0) sent its first non-conference game of the season versus the Stevens Institute Ducks (2-4, 0-0) to extra innings. The Panthers ultimately lost 5-4 last Saturday at Stevens.

The Panthers scored in the top of the first on an infield single by Hanrahan, who was later driven in by senior right fielder Sam Graf on a sacrifice fly. The Ducks responded with a two run inning, setting the score to 1-2, and then with another run in the seventh inning to increase their lead, 1-3. Middlebury then went scoreless until the ninth inning.

According to senior catcher Phil Bernstein, having the mentality to get on base is key for the Panthers.

"Ultimately, it comes down to our approach at the plate," Bernstein said. "We simply struck out way too much and didn't put any pressure on their defense and for us to be successful we need to put the ball in play and make their fielders actually feel the ball cleanly and make the play. We gave their pitcher too much credit by not changing our approach with two strikes and forcing them to earn the out."

Senior pitcher Colby Morris started on the mound for the Panthers, adding four strikeouts on six innings. Stevens sophomore pitcher Joseph Deitz received the win for the Ducks, after pitching the final 1.2 innings and striking out one batter.

The Panthers' ninth inning comeback started with a center field single by sophomore infielder Ryan Hanrahan, which drove home junior shortstop Brooks Carroll. Carroll hit .500 for Middlebury, with one run and one RBI. Sophomore center fielder Henry Strmecki scored on a sacrifice fly by junior catcher Gray Goolsby to put Middlebury in the lead.

The Ducks then responded with two runs in the bottom of the 10th inning, scoring on a Panther fielding error.

The Panthers return to the field at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (2-3, 0-0) at 4 p.m. this Thursday, followed by a three-game series against Emory University (6-4, 0-0) starting at 12 p.m. this Saturday in Atlanta.

"The loss left a bad taste in our mouth and we're excited to get back in competing again against RPI," Bernstein said. "It'll be a chance for us to flush the loss and get our minds right before we head to down to Atlanta to take on Emory. We open our season competing against high level competition who have been playing games outside for weeks now and our only experience since the fall has been indoors in the field house. In the past we've made that an excuse and this year we're using it as a crutch in order to prove we belong in the conversation with those teams down south. This week is going to be super important for understanding who we are and how we handle adversity and respond to it."

Men's Tennis Begins National Title Defense With Two Shutout Wins

By JACK KAGAN
Senior Writer

The defending Division III National Champion Panthers got back in action on Saturday for the first time this spring against Hamilton and No. 26 Skidmore.

Despite their championship run last spring, the Panthers did lose a considerable amount of firepower to graduation. All three seniors were integral pieces of the lineup all season long. #3 William de Quant finished with an impressive 95-27 career total, while #4 Kyle Schlanger totaled a 69-23 record. Timo van der Geest went 19-11 playing at several different positions in singles, along with a 26-13 doubles record.

The Panthers did add some depth in first-years David Vilys, a 4-star from Naples, Florida, Stanley Morris, a 3-star recruit out of Santa Monica, and Zach Hilty, a 2-star out of San Luis Obispo, California. This 10th-ranked recruiting class will certainly be called upon to fill the hole in the lineup left by the seniors, particularly Schlanger and de Quant.

SHIRLEY MAO/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
Captain Lubomir Cuba '19 fires off a serve at the Nelson Recreation Arena.

Things certainly looked positive for the No. 2 ranked Panthers this Saturday as they took on Skidmore in Saratoga Springs. Middlebury swept the doubles competition easily, starting off with a win at #3 from Aleksandr Samets '20 and Andre Xiao '21 in one of their first doubles showings as Panthers. Doubles specialist Peter Martin '19 teamed up with fellow senior captain Noah Farrell for an easy 8-4 victory. Veteran standout Lubo Cuba '19 and sophomore Nate Eazor finished the session with a perfect 8-0 win.

The singles corps quickly followed suit. In an impressive showing, not a single player dropped a set to his opponent. Morris recorded his first dual match win as a Panther in a win over Skidmore's Travis Leaf at the #3 spot. Xiao slotted in at the #4 spot for just the second time in his career and also recorded an easy victory. Also getting some new experience in the singles lineup was Adam Guo '21, who dominated his opponent 6-0, 6-1. Eazor, Farrell and Cuba all resumed similar singles positions as last year as the Panthers cruised to victory.

That same day the Middlebury men returned from Saratoga to host Hamilton at the Nelson Recreation Center. It was the same exact story for the strong Middlebury contingent, as the Panthers swept the competition without dropping a set.

This weekend, Middlebury will face sharper competition. In two home matches on March 16 and 17, the Panthers will take on No. 10 Brandeis and No. 33 Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. On Saturday, Middlebury will take on a Brandeis team with a bit of a new look. After losing no seniors, the Judges welcomed a first-year class ranked seventh in the nation. A team that finished last season at No. 21, they've already recorded wins against #11 Pomona-Pitzer and several top-30 programs. With their first two wins under their belt, the Panthers have a week to prepare to defend their home courts and their national ranking.

Men's Lacrosse Gets Over Hump and Captures First Win of Season

By BOBBY SULLIVAN
Staff Writer

Following a tough road loss to Bates to open up the season, the Middlebury Men's Lacrosse team traveled to New London, Connecticut to take on Conn. College this past weekend. The Panthers earned their first win of the season, with a clutch 16-9 victory that will steer them in the right direction for contests ahead.

Middlebury came out hot from the start, taking an early 3-0 lead with the goals coming in a 1:38 time span at the start of the first. Sophomore Eric Jeremiah got things going not only for the team, but also for himself as he netted his first of the season. After a Camel's goal coming at the 6:17 mark of the first, Tyler Forbes '22 kept his hot streak going, scoring two stifling shots from the left side to put the Panthers up 5-1. Conn. College rebounded with a last second goal to close out the first quarter but still remained far behind.

The second quarter included a lot of back-and-forth action. While the Camels were able to come within two scores of the Panthers, Forbes struck again to end the opposing team's momentum and get the Panthers back on track. After contributions from seniors Nick Peterson and Jack Gould, who both scored to end out the half, the Panthers maintained a 9-5 lead.

With quality defense and a save by senior Charles Midgley, Middlebury outscored the Camels 4-0 in the third quarter. Scoring came from four different contributors, both in the early minutes and closing minutes of the third. With a commanding 13-6 lead heading into the fourth, the Panthers continued to press on.

Gould opened up the fourth with a goal at the 9:52 mark, increasing the Panthers lead. After a late push from the Camels, who tallied the next two goals, the Panthers were able to seize back momentum and really put the game out of reach. Trading goals in the final five minutes, Chase Goree '20 ended all scoring with an unassisted netter to end the game.

Middlebury showed its roster depth in this game, with contributions coming from a large number of players. Forbes kept his streak alive by tallying five goals in the contest, culminating to a team-leading nine goals for the season. Goree, led the squad with four assists, while also netting two goals. Goalie Midgley, played outstandingly, saving 11 of 19 shots in 54 minutes played.

The Panthers enter the weekend with a 1-2 (1-1 NESCAC) record and remain in the middle of the pack in the NESCAC conference. Traveling to St. Lawrence for a non-conference game on Tuesday, March 12, the Panthers fell to the Saints 3-9, with Jack Sheehan '22 and A.J. Kucinski '20 scoring two and one goals respectively. They will travel to St. Lawrence to play a non-conference game on Tuesday, March 12. Over the weekend, the Panthers head to Baltimore, MD to play in the Mustang Classic. They will take on nationally ranked and conference foe, #7 Wesleyan Cardinals, as well as non-conference opponent, #8 Dickinson.

Fast Times and Far Throws in Boston

MEN'S TRACK AND FIELD CAPTURES FIRST NATIONAL TITLE IN PROGRAM HISTORY, FOUR WOMEN EARN ALL-AMERICAN LAURELS

By JORDAN HOWELL
Senior Writer

Returning home with the first national championship in men's indoor track and field in program history and nine athletes across the men's and women's teams earning all-American laurels, the Middlebury track and field team finished the season with impressive results at the NCAA Championships in Boston.

When asked about how the Tufts Last Chance Meet prepared the team for the Championships, Abigail Nadler '19 said, "The Tufts meet was a great opportunity to practice and gain confidence going into Nationals. Both men's and women's Distance Medley relays are strong and ready to perform. Personally, I am excited to lay down a fast race alongside my teammates and enjoy the atmosphere as a senior."

The men were in a tie for 17th place in a total field of 67 teams with 11 points. In the distance medley relay, the men were able to capture first place with an NCAA-winning time of 9:56.54. This team was composed of Nathan Hill '20, Arden Coleman '20, Jimmy Martinez '19 and Jon Perlman '19. Minhaj Rahman '19 was also an important contributor for the men as he finished in eighth place in the weight throw event with a farthest throw of 19.08 m.

On his performance, Martinez said, "Winning the DMR was sweet. Watching Jon [Perlman] kick down the home straightaway and celebrate across the line was one of the coolest sights of the entire weekend. The place was packed with our friends and teammates, and it was so loud. The hype was unreal. All the work paid off and I'm so happy to have been a part of this relay."

The women were in a tie for sixteenth place in a total field of seventy-six teams with 12 points. Rory Kelly '19 was able to obtain second place in the 3,000 meter run with a time of 9:45.85, earning all-American honors. The women's DMR team, made up of Nadler, Kelly, Gretchen McGrath '21 and Cassie Kearney '22.

Kelly appreciated the support from her teammates over the championship weekend. "Everyone competed with a lot of courage, and the entire team, those competing, those who came down to Boston to support us, and those supporting from Middlebury, really enjoyed celebrating the successes of our team this weekend," she said..

With the end of the indoor season, the outdoor season is only a few weeks away, with the first meet being the PLNU Collegiate Invitational on Saturday, Mar. 23.

"I am so psyched for the outdoor season, and especially our training trip to San Diego over spring break," Kelly said. "We bond a lot as a team on the trip while training but even more so in the time in between while chilling on the beach, hiking, and eating ice cream."

Martinez said, "I'm excited for outdoors, especially the San Diego meets. I am in good shape now, and plan to get in even better shape out there. I'm also very excited to keep up our tradition of crushing kombucha before our races. I, along with Nathan, plan to try a new flavor every week. We attribute most of our success during indoors to the co-op's kombucha aisle. Hopefully, it will help us run even faster outdoors."

COURTESY PHOTO

The men's distance medley relay (DMR) team of Jimmy Martinez '19, Jon Perlman '19, Arden Coleman '20 and Nathan Hill '20 won the first men's indoor track and field championship in program history, finishing with a time of 9:56.54.

COURTESY PHOTO

The men's and women's track and field teams pose after competing in the multi-day NCAA Division III championships in Boston. Nine athletes earned all-American accolades.

Women's Lacrosse Caps Weekend with Two Wins

SHIRLEY MAO/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Madeline Riordan '22 protects the ball against a Connecticut College defender.

By LAUREN BOYD
Senior Writer

The Middlebury Women's lacrosse team grabbed two wins this past week, against Springfield College (16 to 1) and fellow NESCAC competitor, Connecticut College (16 to 3). The Panthers' wins brought the squad to a 2-1 record following the OT loss to Bates.

Both games were characterized by the Panther offense unloading on their competition.

Against Springfield College, the team opened up the first half with 12 goals, giving up none in return. Throughout the game, a conglomeration of Panthers connected with the back of the net. Out of nine scorers for Middlebury, Kate Zecca '20 led the team with three goals. Middlebury showed impressive improvement in the team stats, attempting 24 more shots than Springfield.

Following the Springfield game, Middlebury continued to use their momentum against Conn. College. It only took the Panthers 28 seconds to put their first of 16 points on the board, when senior captain Emma McDonagh beat out Conn. College defenders to give Middlebury the first point of the game. By halftime, the Panthers already had a 10 point cushion, leading 11-1. Middlebury held this comfortable lead until the end, coming out of the contest with a 16-3 win.

McDonagh led the Panthers with five goals, and continued her 30-game scoring streak (which stretches back to her sophomore year). She also exceeded 150 points in her college career, with 112 goals and 42 assists.

Competing against Springfield and Connecticut College proved the team's ability to not only play offensively, but protect its own net. The total team effort propelled the Panthers towards winning. Though the first loss against Bates was tough, the Panthers are moving forward, and are ready for the season ahead.

"Our team gels really well with each other, so one of our goals is to translate this more effectively to on-field execution," said sophomore defense Addy Mitchell, "I think right now we're just working on figuring out our sets and communicating better with each other during games."

With a successful program behind them, and a motivated group of athletes, the 2019 team looks to move far into the postseason — just as they did in previous years. The Panthers will use their gel and determination to keep improving and see their work translate onto the field.

Photos of the Week

FIELD HOCKEY PRESENTED WITH NCAA DIVISION III NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RINGS

BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

After winning its second consecutive NCAA Division III championship back in November 2018, members of the field hockey team received their championship rings. Head coach Katharine DeLorenzo (top right) and her staff were voted the National Field Hockey Coaches Association (NFHCA) Division III National Coaching Staff of the Year, While Erin Nicholas was selected as the NFHCA National Player of the Year. In the final championship game, the Panthers defeated the Tufts Jumbos 2-0.

Women's Tennis Blanks Hamilton

By CECELIA SCHEUER
Senior Writer

The sixth-ranked Middlebury women's tennis team proved they will be a force to reckon with this spring, opening up their spring season over the weekend with a 9-0 home victory over Hamilton on Saturday, March 9.

The match took place indoors at the Nelson Recreational Center, where the Panthers kicked things off by picking up all three points in doubles play. The No. 3 doubles duo of junior Maddi Stow and first year Nora Dahl secured a swift 8-0 victory over Jane Haffer and Sarah Bargamian, while the tandem of junior Heather Boehm and sophomore Ann Martin Skelly continued the streak with an 8-2 win against Ajla Karabegovic and Kat Roberts. Securing the third point for the Panthers was Middlebury's top junior duo of Katherine Hughes and Skylar Schossberger, who triumphed 8-2 over Sophia Aulicino and Audrey Chor.

"This weekend we were finally able to put what we have been working on in practice to the test," Hughes said. "We have been really focused on our doubles play these past few weeks and I think all our work really showed this weekend. It is great to be back from abroad and compete next to my teammates."

During singles play, the Panthers dropped a combined four games, with No. 3 Schossberger solidifying the team's 4-0 singles lead after her 6-0, 6-0 victory over Haffer. At the No. 4 position, Maddie Stowe clinched a 6-1, 6-1 win over Kat Roberts. Hughes continued to dominate in singles as well, cruising past her opponent 6-0, 6-1 in the top singles position, while Boehm blanked Chor 6-0, 6-0 in the second singles flight. Sophomore Emily Bian put the panthers at an 8-0 advantage with a ruthless 6-0, 6-0 triumph at the bottom of the singles lineup, and at one spot above, freshman Emma Gorman finished off the sweep with a 6-0, 6-1 victory against Karabegovic.

"Our goal this season is definitely to win both a NESCAC championship and a national championship," Bian said. "Last year, we came so close (second in NESCAC and a Final Four finish in NCAA), so we are all really excited to try and make Middlebury history by winning it all this year!"

With their sights set high, the team will continue to put the pieces together to accomplish this feat, as they take the countless hours spent over J-Term on fitness training and in the weight room to the court this spring.

The Panthers will play with another home crowd behind them on Saturday, March 16 against 18th-ranked Brandeis at 10:00 a.m.